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Metro
Edition

Vol. 17, No. 28

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

April 19 - April 25, 2000

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Black women get searched more by U.S. Customs

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Customs officials ordered black women returning home from overseas to remove their clothes and undergo X-rays much more often than other passengers, even though their searches were less likely to reveal hidden drugs, a report said.

On a fraction of 1 percent of the 71.5 million passengers were searched as they entered the United States on international flights in fiscal year 1998. And a vast majority of those 52,455 passengers were subjected to simple pat-downs, according to the report by the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm.

The report, requested by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., was released on April 10.

Of those, black women were selected for more intrusive searches — strip searches of X-rays — more than any other group. Whites also had a high likelihood of being strip-searched, and black men were chosen more often than most other passengers to be X-rayed.

Black women were much less likely than the other to be found with hidden illegal drugs, the report said.

"Although searched passengers with certain characteristics were subject to more intrusive searches, they were not always more likely to be found carrying contraband," the GAO said.

As allegations of abusive searches surfaced over the last two years, the Customs Service has made repeated efforts to change how passengers are checked for drugs. The agency faces numerous lawsuits alleging people were singled out for body searches because of their race or sex, including an effort by almost 100 black women to file a class-action suit in Chicago.

Customs officials said the charges, which began in the period studied by the GAO, already are yielding results not reflected in the report. For instance, fewer intrusive searches are being conducted, but more are resulting in drug seizures.

"We don't necessarily disagree with the report," Customs Secretary Raymond B. Chandler said in an interview. "The information is a bit outdated. I think we've taken the problem head-on."

For instance, X-rays changed in 1998 found drugs almost twice as often on whites and black men as on black women. And strip searches that uncovered drugs on Hispanics and black men at much higher rates than on black women.

Also, black women who were U.S. citizens, were nine times as likely as white American women to be X-rayed, but less than half as likely to be concealing illegal drugs.

Such searches are intended to catch smugglers who swallow drug packets or hide cocaine or heroin inside clothing or in body cavities. The searches usually begin with a pat-down, and with reasonable suspicion, can proceed to a strip search, an X-ray, monitored body movement or a body cavity search.

Customs officials generally can detain passengers for long periods of time without court approval. Overall, 3 percent of 96,789 frisks in 1998 and 1999 were positive, compared with 23 percent of 3,872 strip searches and 31 percent of 1,419 X-rays.

The 32 body cavity searches were not included in the statistics because there were so few of them.

Kelly also pointed to comment cards that have been handed out to give international

See BLACK WOMEN, page A8

NYC murder rate rises 12 percent

NEW YORK (AP) — The murder rate in the city rose 12.4 percent in the first three months of the year compared to the same period in 1999, with the Bronx seeing the largest increase, according to the latest police statistics released on April 4.

However, overall violent crime — murder, rape, robbery, burglary, assault, grand larceny and auto theft — is down 7.5 percent so far this year.

As of April 2, there have been 190 murders in the city this year, compared with 169 during the same period last year. For all of 1999, there were 667 murders, compared with 629 in 1998.

Deputy Commissioner of Operations Garry McCarthy disputed some published reports that the shooting of Amadou

Diallo last year by four police officers had contributed to the murder increase. Diallo was gunned down as he stood unarmed in his Bronx apartment vestibule.

It had been reported that some officers had been reluctant to make arrests for fear of being publicly criticized. The officers who approached Diallo had wanted him in connection to a series of rapes.

"The enforcement numbers don't bear that out," McCarthy said. "Arrests are up."

McCarthy also defined the NYPD's use of initiatives to nab minor offenders, such as the controversial "Operation Conquer," an undercover overtime initiative aimed at arresting drug dealers.

"Sometimes we don't always catch a murderer doing a murder,

but we might catch him selling marijuana," McCarthy said.

An unnamed man was fatally shot in Manhattan last month after getting into a fight with undercover officers engaged in a drug buy-and-bust operation. The death of Patrick Dorismond sparked public outrage, especially when his sealed juvenile record was released by city officials.

Those officers were not part of Conquer.

The city has seen a dramatic drop in violent crime since 1990, when murders were at an all-time high of 2,290 — other large cities have seen the same results. Criminal experts have attributed the decrease to the aging of baby boomers, a keener sense of community, pride in good citizenship and the decreasing use of crack

cocaine.

One of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's favorite topics is how crime has decreased dramatically since he took office in 1994. The candidate for U.S. Senate instituted several so-called quality of life crackdowns — from jaywalking to riding bikes on sidewalks — and ordered the cops to make the arrests, much to the public's criticism.

According to McCarthy, the majority of people murdered so far were killed by somebody they knew, and it happened indoors.

Of the city's 76 precincts, 14 precincts have no murders this year. Eight of those precincts are in Manhattan, four are in Brooklyn, and one each in Queens and Staten Island.

See NYC page A8

Justice eludes Faison

ORANGE — Earl Williams has an easy answer to any questions on how to stem the tide of police shootings, that seem to have become so common recently.

"A independent police review board is definitely something that the people need," he said. "As far as I know there's not one anywhere. The people should be in charge of the cops that are hired to patrol their streets."

Williams even has a response ready for any police officer who tries to justify his illegal actions by saying they were afraid for their lives at the time the incident occurred. He said it is a bad idea to put cops in a community filled with people of whom they are afraid.

"They can't know them if they're intimidated by them," he said. "The job of a cop is to know the people. Get out the car, walk around, meet the people; know the people; understand their needs; and that would eliminate the fear. You need people working with the police, not talking about rallying and raising up against them."

Williams — if it is at all necessary — can be excused for his strident remarks and firm beliefs because his son, Earl Faison, died one year ago while in the custody of the Orange Police Department. On April 11, he and the members of his family were joined by the Progressive Organization of Progress and people in search of justice outside police headquarters in Orange to mark the first anniversary of his death with a protest/memorial.

An East Orange resident,



Demonstrators attend a vigil and rally marking the first anniversary of the death of Earl Faison. Faison died less than one hour after being in Orange Police custody.

Faison, 27, died April 11 less than one hour after he was in the custody of the Orange Police. He was the second of four suspects arrested in connection with the murder of Officer Joyce Carnegie on April 8, 1999.

After viewing photos of his son's body, Williams concluded that Faison was a victim of police brutality.

As it turns out, the fourth

suspect arrested in connection with Carnegie's shooting, Connell Woodson, was the man who did it. He was convicted and is currently serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

"Earl Faison died in less than an hour while in police custody on April 11, 1999," said Larry Hamm, the chairman of POP. "There's something wrong with that, just like there's something

wrong with the shooting of Michael Anglin, Amadou Diallo, Michael Dorismond, and so many others. The police are out of control and black people are being victimized."

The rally and vigil were sponsored by POP for the express purpose of putting an end to police brutality, racial profiling, and the establishment of independent civilian police review boards with special subpoena powers for state and local police forces.

Williams, who once attended a police academy, said he understands that not all cops are bad. However, he said the bad ones are running rampant in the streets and in department houses across the country.

"There are cops on the job and the streets right now who don't have any business whatsoever with a badge, uniform and gun," he said. "I know for a fact that we have good cops out there; guys out there who actually care about the people. But you have some out there with personal agendas who should have been screened before they were given a badge."

April 11th's rally was part of POP's 41 Days of Protest campaign. They have scheduled a series of rallies and marches until May 19, Malcolm X's birthday.

The 41 days are symbolic of the number of shots fired at Amadou Diallo by four New York City police officers. Nineteen bullets actually hit him, but the numbers are just semantics.

POP kicked off their 41 days of protest with a motorcade that originated from the Newark mansion of the Women In Support of the Million Man March on April 9th.

BMC to candidates: no negative campaigning

NEWARK — United States Congressional candidates Jan Corzine and former Governor Jim Florio got the chance to meet with representatives of New Jersey's black clergy at the Black Ministers' Council of New Jersey statewide conference April 12 to discuss hot button issues in the upcoming election.

For more than an hour, each candidate was grilled separately by the members of the council on subject matter ranging from educational issues to political education and empowerment in the African American community.

"We feel the coming election is going to be the most important in the last 25 years," Rev. Reginald Jackson said. "You have two, possibly three justices on the Supreme Court who will most likely retire, and this next president will have a chance to appoint new ones. Also, because of issues like racial profiling each of them got a very close grilling because of our concerns that it is a national

problem."

Jackson said the BMC has already sent a letter to both presidential candidates — Vice President Al Gore and Governor George Bush of Texas — inviting them to meet and discuss what are other issues of national interest. Closer to home, he said the council also discussed the campaign tactics being employed by each candidate.

"Both of these candidates need to back off the negative stabbing of each other," he said. "The African American community is an intelligent community. All of this seeking to exploit the African American community, if we have anything to do with it, will fail."

Corzine said he felt the experience was rewarding. He said he welcomed the opportunity to meet with the ministers to discuss the issues at stake in the upcoming November election.

Florio, too, said he was glad to have been invited to participate in the conference because of all the important issues at stake in the upcoming election. He also took the opportunity to once again challenge Corzine to a public debate.

"This is the debate about debates," Corzine said. "We've gone to debate in May and have my people in contact with Mr. Florio to set up a schedule."

Corzine's comments seemed to be a direct challenge to Florio, who has been trying to chase his opponent down for months to debate important issues like Social Security.

"We have a difference of opinion, and I've challenged him to a debate, but he has refused to debate me on anything," he said.

The conference lasted till April 15 at the Newark Airport Hilton Hotel. The Council has adopted the same theme of the Congressional Black Caucus: "Just Permanent Interests," and some of the issues covered during the four-day conference were: 1. Education; 2. Healthcare; 3. Inner City Revitalization and Economic Development; 4. Law Enforcement; 5. Political Education and Empowerment.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

LINCROFT - Monmouth County Park System will hold a collage class. For further information, call the Park System at (732) 842-4000.

MAPLEWOOD - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Town Hall. For further information, call (973) 821-4915.

JERSEY CITY - The New Jersey City University will sponsor their annual high school jazz festival. For more information, call (201) 200-3151.

PLAINFIELD - The Board of Education will hold a business meeting at the high school library, 8 p.m. For more information, call (908) 753-3150.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

NEWARK - The Newark Museum presents the Jazzberry Jam. For information, call (973) 596-6560.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Rutgers University hosts a jazz concert. For further information, call (732) 932-7511.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

MILLBURN - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Police Department. For further information, call (973) 821-4915.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

MORRISTOWN - The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will perform. For further information, call (732) 247-7200 ext. 542.

BELLEVILLE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Public Library. For further information, call (973) 821-4915.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

JERSEY CITY - Jersey City State University presents "Cattish and Combeard: Stories About Black Men, Women, and Families." Call (201) 200-352.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theater presents Dionne Warwick at 8 p.m. For further information, call Box Office (732) 246-7469.

JERSEY CITY - New Jersey City University hosts a hip hop dance workshop, at 6 p.m. For more information, call (201) 200-2315.

UPPER MONTCLAIR - Montclair University hosts "Black Thought and Movements in World History" at 5:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 655-7515.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

NEWARK - NJPAC presents their World Festival at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-5834.

NEW BRUNSWICKS - Rutgers University hosts the New Jersey Folk Festival, starting at 10 a.m. For further information, call (732) 932-9174.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theater presents Victor/Victoria at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. For further information, call (973) STATE 11.

PATERSON - The Masonic Temple hosts a youth benefit concert, at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. For further information, call (973) 385-0111 or (973) 904-0908.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

MAHWAH - Ramapo College Lecture Series presents "Civil Disobedience: A Vital Component to Creating for a Culture of Peace" at 6 p.m. For more information, call (201) 684-7533.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

NEWARK - NJPAC hosts an opera extravaganza at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-5834.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

METUCHEN - An antique car series will be held downtown, from 6-9 p.m. For further information, call (732) 548-2964.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

NEWARK - NJPAC celebrates the music and birthday of Charlie Parker! For more information, call (800) 255-3476.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

MAHWAH - Ramapo College Lecture Series 2000 presents "Arms Transfer: A Threat to a Culture of Peace" at 6 p.m. For more information, call (201) 684-7533.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theatre presents The Mozart Experience at 10 a.m. For more information, call (973) 824-3713 ext. 216.8

SATURDAY, MAY 13

NEWARK - NJPAC presents the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, at 2p.m. and 8 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-5834.

NEWARK - NJPAC hosts a Jazz For Teens at 12:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-5834.

NEWARK - NJPAC hosts jazz Mill Jackson Quartet at 7 p.m. For more information, call (973) 297-5834.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

NEWARK - The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will perform at 3:00 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-5834.

ORANGE - Orange High School hosts arts workshops. For more information, call (973) 353-8020.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

NEWARK - NJPAC hosts the Met Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-5834.

Essence Cover Model Search chooses winners



Three new faces in fashion were chosen as ESSENCE Magazine and Wilhelmina Models announced the winners of the ESSENCE Cover Model Search at a party hosted by MTV VJ Ananda Lewis at Club Ohm in New York City are (left to right): third place winner Melissa Hunte, 24 of Windsor, Ontario; grand prize winner Aladrian Crowder, 17, of Owings Mills, Maryland; and second place winner Pamela Reed, 25, of Birmingham, Alabama.

Mayor Bollwage announces Elizabeth childcare grant



The Elizabethport Presbyterian Center will soon be offering extended childcare services at their daycare center thanks to a \$20,000 grant from Schering-Plough and efforts by Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste and Mayor Chris Bollwage. Pictured are Mayor Bollwage, Nina Wells of Schering-Plough, Rod Spearman, the executive director of the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, a staff worker, Councilwoman Perkins-Auguste and the children of the daycare center.

Black History Moments



Toussaint L'Ouverture

1791 - Toussaint L'Ouverture, led the first slave revolt against the French in Haiti to liberate the colony. A self-educated slave, this insurgent, soldier, statesman, and martyr was imprisoned by Napoleon. He is ultimately responsible for making Haiti the first independent, black-ruled country in the Western Hemisphere.

Other Slave Revolts

1665 - The first major conspiracy between black slaves and indentured servants occurred in Gloucester County, Va. on Sept. 13.

1712 The first major slave revolt in New York City was on April 7.

1720 - First insurrection of slaves in South Carolina.

1831 - Nat Turner led a two day revolt on August 21-22 in Southampton County, Va.

Council of Hispanic Affairs honors Jersey City professor



The Council on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) of New Jersey City University honored Ben Jones (left) of Jersey City, a New Jersey City University professor of art, for his contributions as an educator, mentor, and artist to the University community and to Latino communities around the globe, at the annual Scholarship Fund Benefit Dinner held recently on campus.

Mayor James inducts women of standing into Hall of Fame



Newark Mayor Sharpe James with honorees at the recent Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, Women's Hall of Fame awards dinner. Pictured with Mayor James (l to r): Dr. Mabel Bentley Perry, Clay Houston, Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, Dr. C. DeLores Tucker and Mrs. Elizabeth DeTulo.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

CENTER FOR NEW BLACK LEADERSHIP HONORS DR. BEN CARSON

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—The Center for New Black Leadership announced the recipient of the 2000 Excellence in Leadership Awards at its third Annual CNBL Scholars Dinner, held March 23 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ben Carson of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Howard Fuller of Morehouse University and Patricia Fundenburg Ware of the Preserving Family Well-Being Foundation comprised this year's list of honorees.

Other special guests at the event included Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Rep. J.C. Watts, Jr. who served as dinner chairman. Also in attendance were U.S. Civil Rights Commissioners Carl A. Anderson and Russell B. Rector, Rep. Wm. Latta (VA) and Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC). "I am particularly proud of this year's recipients," said Phyllis Berry Myers, Executive Director of the Center. "They are all ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things to change the lives of young people."

Dr. Carson, the world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, delivered the keynote address in which he reminded the audience that "there is a capital 'D' in diversity and that diversity is a strength, not a weakness." "Without paternal intervention in our society, children look to religion to see where they fit in and black children see the entertainment industry where they fit in," he said. "The black leagues and rap artists," said Dr. Carson, "it is our responsibility to show them that blacks have contributed to every facet of American life. You do not have to be black to teach a child that this is our nation's greatest strength."

STATES DUE \$24.8 BILLION TO BUILD NEW, REPAIR CRUMBLING SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—The U.S. Department of Education recently released state-by-state estimates of the amount that will be authorized under H.R. 4994, a bipartisan bill introduced by Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., and Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. The legislation would allocate \$24.8 billion in funds to help communities build and modernize up to 6,000 schools. President Clinton is committed to signing the legislation if passed by Congress.

From the Bronx to Los Angeles, our nation's schools face serious overcrowding and are in dire need," said U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. "In the next year since the President asked the Congress to address this pressing need, conditions have only gotten worse. It is time for Congress to approve urgently needed school renovation. Schools districts, whether they are rural, urban or suburban need the help."

A 1999 GAO report found that \$112 billion was needed to bring America's existing schools into acceptable condition. A recent GAO report found that increased school construction expenditures at the state and local levels, less than one-fifth of construction spending was used to renovate or repair existing schools.

UN TO IMPLEMENT SIERRA LEONE PEACE AGREEMENT

NEW YORK, NY (PANA)—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the world body is determined to implement the Sierra Leone peace agreement by deploying the 11,000 peacekeepers approved for the country. Responding to the likely collapse of the peace process in Sierra Leone, due to the incohesive nature of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), Annan said he hoped the peace process would be successful.

"I hope we don't repeat the experience of Angola," he added. A four-year peace process brokered by the UN and the Angolan civil war collapsed in 1995 due to the failure of rebel UNITA to fulfill its obligations under the peace plan. Annan told reporters that although RUF and its leader, Foday Sanneh, appear uncooperative, efforts have been made to ensure that they comply with their commitments under the peace plan signed in Lome, Togo, in 1996.

MONROVIAN ARMY CLASHES WITH POLICE

MONROVIA, Liberia (PANA)—A mid-morning burst of gunfire that sent thousands of Monrovia's scrambling for safety is the latest incident in a series of wrangles between the Liberian army and the police. Defense ministry spokesman Philbert Browne told PANA the matter was being investigated by a joint police-military panel which would report and make recommendations to reconcile the two agencies.

Liberian security forces have often clashed over the lack of proper designation of firearms, sometimes leading to the discharge of firearms. Heads of security agencies have been appearing before the joint security committee to testify. In early March, a shooting incident involving the police and military at the country's international airport derailed the arrival ceremony of President Charles Taylor as government officials and diplomats received the president fleeing the airport.

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Police and DA angered over Mumia Abu-Jamal's commencement address

PHILADELPHIA, PA (NNPA)—Mumia Abu-Jamal will give the commencement address at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio by audio-tape April 29.

In a letter to Antioch College President Robert Devine, Philadelphia First Assistant District Attorney Arnold H. Gordon noted that the graduating class was "impressional" and questioned the school's academic community's "sense of decency," and argued it had "too sense of what is right and what is wrong."

The Antioch Student Commencement Committee maintained its decision. Speaking on behalf of the committee, students Teshan Latner and Ross Fitzgerald responded to the condemnation, saying, "Antioch students are highly educated about Mumia Abu-Jamal. We are highly educated by the state and we have absolute confidence in our decision to host Mumia for our key-note speaker at our graduation."

The Philadelphia District Attorney's office has requested that Antioch reconsider its invitation.

tation for Mumia to speak. District Attorney Lynne Abraham said, "that well-educated people should glorify the convicted killer of police officer Daniel Faulkner is repugnant and should be condemned by all right-thinking Americans."

Millions of people from around the world have insisted that Mumia Abu-Jamal is innocent and never had a fair trial. At his trial, they insist, the prosecution withheld exculpatory evidence and violated more than 22 of his constitutional rights.

The students at Antioch College declare they "have invited Mumia Abu-Jamal to speak at our commencement because his life and struggle have illuminated issues that are of great concern to our society, including widespread police brutality, rampant racism in the criminal justice system which has incarcerated more Black men than apartheid South Africa, and the increasing dependency on prison labor in this country."

Antioch College students' support for Abu-Jamal echo similar endorsements by students worldwide.

South Carolina march aimed at more than moving flag

WASHINGTON, DC (NNPA)—According to participants and organizers, the five-day march led by Charleston, SC city leadership earlier this month was more than pushing state legislators to remove the confederate flag from the dome of the state Capitol. Amid mixed emotions from some residents onlookers who say that the protest march may cost the state more than the symbolism of the flag is worth, the march brought continued national attention to the issue.

"This is about showing the nation and the world that South Carolina is in step with the rest of the world," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. And it's about unifying all South Carolinians."

The march was attended by over 700 demonstrators—black and white—who made the 120-mile trek from Charleston to Columbia amid sprinklings of confederate flag supporters.

"We want to move away from the old perception that all we southerners are stuck in some old way of thinking," said one demonstrator. "We want to send a loud message to the state legis-

lature that we are not a bunch of racists," she said.

Protesters only marched during the day, Sunday April 2 through April 6, picking up at seven each morning and stopping at six for the night. Although southern legislators tend to be firmly committed to keeping the flag atop the dome, protesters believe they got their message across. One marcher was former governor John West who served as head of state when the legislature voted to place the flag on the capital by the 1962 General Assembly. West said he was slightly embarrassed that he'd not taken the flag down later in his tenure, but that he had every intention of working to correct what he viewed as one of his "mistakes."

Also at issue however, was concern regarding the impact of the call for economic boycotts by the NAACP. Although targeted at Charleston's economic bottom line, a few noted that there may be some undue strain on the black communities of South Carolina.

"There are a lot of black folk not participating in this effort," says one local professional who

did not want to be identified. "They feel like the flag shouldn't be up there, but they don't know if fighting to have it taken down is worth losing so much money in addition to cancellation of events there is a loss of participation by some annually visiting groups such as the National Governors Association, The New York Knicks, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, The National Council of Negro Women, the International Association of Black Firefighters and a host of others."

Particularly hurtful is the potential loss of the annual Spoleto Festival, a cultural arts program which typically brings thousands of dollars to the state.

"Black people tend to feel those kinds of crunches almost immediately," he said. "It's a tough loss over a flag when there is so much that could be fought over that might yield higher results."

There are counter events and actions being planned. The South Carolina Heritage Coalition is one of several groups lobbying the flag to stay atop the dome of the Capitol. The group held a countermarch April 9.

Mayor Riley remains undaunted in his effort to remove the flag and have it placed in a museum.

"A majority of South Carolinians agree that the Confederate battle flag does not belong atop our state capital," Riley said. "Our state legislature is out of step with the people. We want to bring this issue to their attention and urge them to remove the flag to an alternative place of honor."

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Crazy like the weather

Hey, how about that crazy weather we had a few weekends ago. On Saturday, it was literally on the verge of summer — a break out the shorts and sandals kind of day. And in 24 hours it was snowing like the middle of winter. Was that crazy or what? As I peered out of my window on that snowy Sunday morning, I was sharply reminded of how crazy life can be. One day it's like this and the next day it's like that. As crazy as "Hollywood" Henderson, who was kicked out of the NFL for drug abuse, winning millions in his state lottery. This is why you can't give up on life because you never know what's lurking around the corner for you. Take for example Oprah Winfrey, the woman's life is playing out like something that should be on a movie screen. She went from this country gal, who was sexually abused, pregnant as a young teen, suffered a miscarriage, and now she sits at the top of an empire, soon to be a billionaire. I'm telling you life is so very unpredictable. My belief is that if you hold on to your dreams and strive to achieve, there will one day be a pot of gold waiting for you. It's miraculous, this thing we call life. Like a very close friend of mine, who has donated countless hours of her time to help women and children — women in prison, women on welfare and teen mothers and youth in general, and would you believe just the other day she was asked to speak before an assembly of youth and the organization which extended the invitation is paying her check handsomely. That's how crazy life can be. I can't help but think of that old familiar line from church that says "Life isn't won by the swift, it's won by the one who holds out until the end. If you're experiencing some trying times, just hold on and believe a ray of sunshine is coming your way and don't be surprised if it shows up tomorrow.

Reparations, racial profiling, and U.S. corporations

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

It is important that we place the issue of the current discussion of racial profiling in proper historical context. Racial profiling started in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. European nations captured millions of Africans in one of the most brutal crimes against humanity in the history of the world.

The issue of racial profiling is an updated use of language that has been part of the western white supremacy system for over four hundred years. That is, target African people for whatever reason, and for whatever reasons that the white power system deems it necessary at a particular time in history. Now, racial targeting is centered around "driving white black."

In *Kombo Country*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 1975 in an article titled, "Black Capital," explained that African peoples "introduced to the West was in the form of a commodity raped from Africa, to be used as labor, capital, chattel and currency to build a nation for someone else." In fact, we became the property of the white hemisphere, which is the foundation for "racial profiling."

Not only were African peoples used to build nations such as Portugal, Spain, France, England, and the United States, but were used in many instances to build the economic foundations of those countries.

This has been recently documented in the ground breaking research of New York-based Attorney Deedra Farmer-Paellman who has added a "new prong" to the reparations and political pursuit of corporations and private estates that have been unjustly enriched by slavery.

Attorney Farmer-Paellman completed her law degree in January 1999 when she earned her Jurist Doctorate degree from New England School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts.

Over the past fourteen years,

Farmer-Paellman has received significant training as an intern law clerk for various community organizations and agencies such as the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman Edolphus Towns, State Assemblyman Roger Green, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America/NCOBRA, and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Farmer-Paellman said, "These profits (from slave policies) have helped Aetna, Inc. to become a multi-billion dollar corporation today. They have a moral obligation to apologize and share that wealth with the heirs of the Africans they helped maintain in slavery."

In talking with Farmer-Paellman she indicated that her research has identified at least forty other United States corporations who benefited and are still benefiting from their unjust practices during the slave era.

Thus far, Aetna, Inc. has only chose to deliver on part of their promise by making an unprecedented apology for their role in slavery. However, at this time the official position of Aetna, Inc. is that "they have no plans to pay reparations."

As we continue our work in the Reparations Movement to influence legislation like the Tulsa 1921 Riot Commission, the East St. Louis Riot of 1917, the Chicago Riot of 1919, and other significant attacks today by whites against African people in America, we should now also join forces with researchers like attorney Farmer-Paellman and demand Aetna, Inc. and other corporations that benefited from the slave trade industry, pay restitution.

At the same time, we must continue our struggle to get Congressional Conyers' H.R.40 Study Reparations Bill passed, while we develop expanding strategies in the Reparations Movement.

It is obvious that we have only scratched the surface of our organizing efforts in the Reparations Movement. Stay tuned!

Disrimond tragedy... when does 'just say no' really mean no?

By Gloria Dugan-Wilson

Imagine that you are walking along a street in your neighborhood, minding your own business, and a suspicious looking person, someone you've never met, comes up to you and asks you whether you have marijuana, or know where to get them. You're not involved in drugs, have nothing to do with anyone who is, and are insulted by anyone who tries to involve you in them. You take the stand that has been drummed into the heads of youth for at least a decade and just say "no" emphatically, so that the individual does not miss your meaning and moves on to someone, and hopefully, somewhere, else.

You've taken the right stand, and should be applauded because of it. Right? Well, that was what should have happened. But it certainly was not the situation in the case of Mr. Patrick Disrimond, an unarmed Haitian security guard, who was accosted shortly after midnight on 37th and Eighth Ave. by defective detective Anthony Vasquez, masquerading as an undercover officer.

First, he was harassed by Vasquez, then he was roughed up, and finally he was shot for his trouble by Vasquez's gun that just happened to "go off." Mr. Disrimond was killed, his mother in searing pain, mourning the loss of her son, a community is outraged, and an insipid mayor once again apologizes and penitentiates the lack step, postapo dictum that he has put forth since the day he took office — actually even before he took office.

To justify the actions of incompetency of police who were involved in yet another display of depraved indifference to human life, Giuliani drags out Disrimond's sealed juvenile records as though it was the reason for his being murdered in cold blood for embarrassing them, and an insipid mayor once again apologizes and penitentiates the lack step, postapo dictum that he has put forth since the day he took office — actually even before he took office.

Rep. Gregory Meeks, chair of the Council of Black Elected Democrats, have called for an investigation by the U.S. Justice Department to "demonizing and victimizing and innocent victim via racial profiling."

Disrimond did not live up to their profile, so they killed him. It's the rule, not the exception. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) said that this people of color. It doesn't matter that these people were Hispanic, some of them have

been known to cross the line.

The attempt to set up Disrimond failed because he was not what they thought he was, and there was no grounds for killing him. Vasquez was undercover, and Disrimond was clean and unarmed, so he should have moved on to another "suspect" who may well be the person he was looking for, instead of

'Had Mr. Disrimond said "yes" he would probably be just as dead. Only now they'd have some justification for their actions.'

pressuring him, harassing him, and ultimately killing him. Number one, they "blew their cover" making them ineffective in terms of future drug busts, which are supposed to alleviate the community from predatory drug dealers. Second, they now have become the predators instead. Running through the streets like mad dogs — barking and sniffing at anything that shakes and moves — they attack the unfamiliar. Thirdly, why did Vasquez have his gun drawn anyway? Disrimond was unarmed. He may have been annoyed at being approached for drugs, but he certainly was not an action that required firearms.

Had Mr. Disrimond said "yes" he would probably be just as dead. Only now they'd have some justification for their actions.

With just say "no" no longer a deterrent, what then do we tell our children? How can they have confidence that taking the higher ground is going to work when the police themselves are now the force to be afraid of? Eric Adams of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care stated, "He's the first Black man in history who died for just saying no to drugs. An African American man was shot by a member of the police department while his vehicle was not participating in any illegal behavior."

Generally, drug dealers will leave you

Remembering the Sharpeville massacre

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

One of the tragedies of post-apartheid South Africa is that too much is being forgotten of the numerous atrocities that occurred during the vicious era of the white supremacist regime.

African people should never forget history! It is in this connection that the National Black United Front always commemorates the March 21, 1960 Sharpeville Massacre.

African Liberation Movement forces, around the world, commemorate the Sharpeville Massacre. This will be the 40th anniversary of this tragic event in South African history.

Just as the African American community in this country demonstrated and subjected themselves to arrest in the South during the 1950's and 1960's to protest racist segregation laws, African people in the Sharpeville area of South Africa, in 1960, began organizing to demonstrate against the white supremacist Pass Laws System. The Pass Law System in South Africa was a system of racial control that the African government employed to "officially" check on the whereabouts of black people at all times. Black people had to carry a document much like a passport that must be stamped, before

they are allowed any movement in the country.

On December 19, 1959, the Pan African Congress (PAC), a black conference held at Orlando, Johannesburg, "resolved to launch upon a campaign directed against the Pass Laws which subject the African people to humiliation of constant arrest. The African people's community is familiar with police harassment and brutality. The Pass Law System in South Africa gave the police unlimited authority in arresting people at will."

During the week of March 20, 1960, the Pan African Congress requested permission to hold a public meeting on Sunday. The request was refused by South African government officials. The African Congress decided to launch the Pass Book Campaign on March 21, by holding a rally and demonstration to protest these vicious laws. Unable to hold a public meeting, members of the PAC called their members to meet at the Sharpeville Tennis Court grounds.

Sharpeville is a small town in the African location of Vereeniging. According to eyewitness accounts, at about 1:00 a.m., on March 21st, "a great number of people had assembled at the tennis court where they were

addressed on the objects of the campaign and had explained to them the decision to surround peacefully to the police for arrest that day." Further eyewitness

'Sixty Africans were killed on the spot and 178 were wounded. More than 80 percent of those shot were shot in the back as they fled.'

accounts explain that, "at 1:30 a.m., a riot squad with two security staff cars arrived at the scene of the meeting. Without endeavoring to anybody what the gathering was about, the police started shooting from their vehicles into the air to frighten and disperse the crowd."

Later that morning, "a great number of armed white police invaded the location and while they were ostensibly patrolling the streets, intimidating people with the obvious intentions of causing retaliation so that they

alone when you say "no, I'm not into that." They usually step off and go somewhere else. This recent arrest by police also is a sign to them, as well, that if you say "no" they can kill you, too. After all, look at what the police did? So now, who is a child to believe, when the police that are hired to back them up in resisting drug dealers turn out to be worse than the criminals they are supposed to avoid. Disrimond made an intelligent decision in responding to a request for drugs: "NO!" Now it's damned if you do, damned if you don't.

Murder, violence and convenient "errors" are on the rise in the NYPD, excused as "tragic mistakes" Once called "New York's Finest," they are now called "New York's Most Incompetent." Rev. Al Sharpton has called for federal take over of the NYPD. U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch, in Brooklyn, has agreed to consider the request. City Councilwoman Annette Robinson, of the Select Committee on Police Performance and Community Relations stated, "If your skin is brown and you speak with an accent, you will be considered a criminal suspect." In a culturally and racially diverse city like New York, it is absolutely untenable.

New York's special forces are not only out of control, but out of compliance with what their original directive is: TO PROTECT AND SERVE. But, then again, let's look at what PROTECT AND SERVE really means. Just who are they "protecting"? Obviously not the Black people in the community. So it must be those other than — possibly those who put them into the position in the first place — a neo-fascist mayor and his equally quasi-Nazi police commissioner, and those that support them. Those who have a vested interest in so-called "ethnic cleansing" — a police phrase for genocide. They, therefore, are who are being "served" by this group of neanderthal mentality carnivores, masquerading as law enforcement officers.

When abuse of office, abuse of power, and abuse of trust come together, and are sanctioned and supported by those who hired them, who see themselves as judges, jury and executioner on the street and at City Hall, you have a clear case of the violation of both civil and human rights. It's time to clean house. Get out the Lysol and the toilet paper, the disinfectant and the poop scooper because the dogs are on the loose and it's time to teach them to heel.

might be afforded an excuse to carry out their objective of smashing by brute force the opposition to the Pass Laws."

Leaders of the Pan African Congress continued their planned march to the police station in accordance with their decision that they were going to surrender themselves for arrest.

Hundreds of people followed by leaders singing the South African Black National Anthem. Among the Mangaliso Babers, Sekhukwe, the first National President of PAC, and his aides had been arrested, thousands of people gathered at the police station in Sharpeville. The white police fired on the defenseless men, women and children. Sixty Africans were killed on the spot and 178 were wounded. More than 80 percent of those shot were shot in the back as they fled. It is because of this incessant act of violence that we commemorate the Sharpeville Massacre.

It is important that we continue to analyze and discuss historical events that help us understand the role of history in the liberation of African people. African people must never forget history! Remember the Sharpeville Massacre!

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BUSINESS
CALENDARRutgers sponsoring conference
to address financial planning

By Dr. Karen Ensle, RD, FADA, CFCFS

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a day-long personal finance conference, "Countdown to 2000: Financial Strategies For Your Future," on Saturday, May 20. The program will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Hagerty Education Center at the Frelinghuysen Village, 53 East Hanover Avenue, Morris Township, NJ.

The conference is presented as part of a five-year campaign, called MONEY 2000, designed to encourage New Jersey residents to increase savings and reduce debt. The cost for MONEY 2000 participants and \$22 for all others. A continental breakfast, lunch, and printed materials are included in the registration fee.

Nationally-known financial expert, Wall Street Journal columnist Jonathan Clements, will present a keynote address called "Seizing Control of Your Financial Life in Seven Easy

Steps." He will discuss techniques to make informed decisions that lead to financial success.

Exhibits by non-profit agencies providing financial services, a series of four workshops, a luncheon presentation on "A Juror's Perspective: What Investors Need to Know," by Kathleen Lynn, financial writer for The Record (Hackensack), and personal finance-oriented door prizes, round out the day's activities.

Topics of the morning workshops are "How to Reach a Value Line Stock Report" and "Last Minute Financial Catch-Up Strategies." Afternoon workshops are "How to Build a Investing Fund Portfolio" and "The Eight Do's and Don'ts With IRA and Retirement Plan Assets." There will also be an optional post-conference workshop on "Planning For the High Cost of College."

To register for the "Countdown to 2000" conference, send a \$20 or \$22 check, made payable to "Morris County

Extension Service," and mail to Family & Consumer Sciences Department, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County, P.O. Box 900, Morristown, NJ 07963-0900. Be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number, and morning and afternoon workshop choices.

The deadline for early registration is Friday, May 12. After May 12 and before May 19, add a \$5 late fee. No registration will be accepted after Thursday, May 18 or at the door.

To obtain a conference brochure, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office, listed in the "County Government" section of the telephone book. For additional information, call Barbara O'Neill at 973-579-0885 or Pat Brennan at 973-285-8392 weekdays during business hours or send an e-mail message to onell@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension and services are available in every New Jersey county and are offered without regard to

When to hire a lawyer

By Karen Ensle, RD, FADA, CFCFS

Generally speaking, anytime you think you may need a lawyer, you probably do. This is true especially when you are dealing with emotionally charged legal issues. When you need a lawyer, you should know how to find one that specializes in your kind of problem because attorneys often practice in only one or two areas of the law. You also should understand the different ways lawyers get paid. Some of the instances where retaining a lawyer is advised include:

Drawing up a Will. - A lawyer can draw up a simple will in just two or three hours. You will gain peace of mind knowing that it is set up properly and protects your heirs and your assets. It is worthwhile to spend a few hundred dollars in legal fees to protect, perhaps thousands of dollars you may have in your estate. Avoid "do-it-yourself" will kits or computer software. They are usually oversimplified and don't help you use estate planning techniques that can save you lots of money in taxes.

Presenting a Small Claims Court Case. - If you bring suit against a corporation (e.g., a toy store sells you a defective bicycle and your child was injured), it is recommended that you bring an attorney, particularly if the claim is on the high side. A corporation is likely to bring a team of lawyers to intimidate you. An attorney can bolster your case and your morale.

Dividing Marital Assets at Divorce. When you are dividing up assets at this emotionally super-charged time, you should always have a lawyer on your side representing your interests. This is also true for uncontested divorces and prenuptial agreements.

Buying a Home. - If you are buying (or selling) a home, always use a lawyer to review the contract and represent you at the closing. Should you be dealing with a relative, the IRS rules for dealing with family members are even stricter than when you sell property to strangers. Your lawyer should check your property's title to make sure there are no liens against it.

Presenting a Small Claims Court Case. - If you bring suit against a corporation (e.g., a toy store sells you a defective bicycle and your child was injured), it is recommended that you bring an attorney, particularly if the claim is on the high side. A corporation is likely to bring a team of lawyers to intimidate you. An attorney can bolster your case and your morale.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

NEW YORK - The Roosevelt Hotel will host a power breakfast seminar for information, call (888) 233-1119.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

NEWARK - The Prudential Foundation hosts technical assistance workshops, at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 902-7134.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

NEWARK - The NYNJ Minority Purchasing Council, will be holding its 3rd "Information Exchange" at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 430-6320.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

CLARK - The Union County and Westfield Chambers of Commerce are having a Kick-off breakfast at 8:30 a.m. For further information, call (909) 352-0000.

MONDAY, MAY 1

SECAUCUS - The New Jersey Society of CPAs' Education Foundation will host the 2000 Business & Technology Show & Congress, Thursday, May 4. For more information, call (212) 258-0333.

TUESDAY, MAY 2

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Bar Foundation will hold a legal information workshop at 5:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 977-7518 or (800) FREE LAW.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

NEWARK - Newark International Airport Authority will host the 2000 Aviation Career and Education Expo at 8:30 a.m. For additional information, call (973) 951-6255.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

EAST BRUNSWICK - The 52nd Annual NJ Business Conference will take place at the Hilton Towers. For further information, call (973) 673-5790.

How to find the right mutual fund

Dr. Karen Ensle, RD, FADA, CFCFS

Finding the right mutual fund to either begin an investment program or add to an existing portfolio can sometimes seem an overwhelming task. Assuming you are familiar with the various types of mutual funds, below are some specific steps for picking them.

STEP 1: Identify the type of funds you need (e.g. growth) to reach your goals. Getting started will be easier if you first focus your search on a specific type of mutual fund with a specific investing objective. Eventually, your goal should be to build a portfolio that includes both stock and bond funds with various investment objectives and investment styles for maximum diversification. This portfolio allocation process involves assigning appropriate

percentages of your total investment portfolio, no matter its size, to interest-bearing (income) and stock (growth) investments (e.g., 50% stocks, 30% bonds, 20% cash).

STEP 2: Do more reading. Visit the library or buy some specialized books on mutual fund investing. Some useful ones are: "Mutual Funds for Dummies" by Eric Tyson, (IDG Books, 1995); "Sheldon Jacob's Guide to Mutual Funds: No-load, No-load Investing" (Irwin, 1995); and "The Right Way to Invest in Mutual Funds" by Walter Uspensky (Warner Books, 1996). More advanced books are John Bogle's "Bogle on Mutual Funds" (Irwin, 1994) and Common Sense on Mutual Funds (John Wiley and Sons, 1999).

STEP 3: Do some research on specific funds. There are excellent tools to help with the process

of narrowing the list. Personal finance magazines provide their "best buy" lists generally twice a year in February and August (e.g., Money, Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine, Business Week and Forbes), Barron's and The Wall Street Journal publish a quarterly Mutual Fund Review that reports on funds' category and objective, current and past performance, and fees. Also, the Investment Company Institute (www.ici.org) has excellent publications on mutual fund investing.

Once you spot several funds that have consistently performed well and are aligned with your goals, visit your library's reference section to complete your research. Bi-monthly rating services such as Morningstar Mutual Funds provide current data on nearly 1,700 mutual

funds with a one-page report on each. This makes it easy to review and compare funds you are considering. Look at look at three, five, and ten-year performance records.

STEP 4: Determine your selection criteria and eliminate funds. You can whittle down the 12,000 funds universe to a manageable list in short order by using a few criteria to help with the elimination process. For example, suppose you are looking for a stock fund to invest in for retirement. Right there, you have cut the number to a little over 5,000 funds by eliminating all the bond and money market funds. Perhaps you will lose out all funds that have sales commission, all stock funds with an expense ratio over percent, funds that have an investment minimum over \$3,000, any fund where the manager's tenure is

less than five years, and all funds that have not outperformed 60 percent comparable funds over the last 3 and 5 years, etc.

Applying these criteria as you research your favorites, pay most attention to performance, cost to invest, and risk.

STEP 5: Call or write for a prospectus.

A prospectus is the selling document legally required to be distributed to mutual fund investors. It describes the fund's investment strategy as well as the risks and costs of an investment.

STEP 6: Make your purchase. For no-load funds you can always do business by mail, and in some cases, at a local investment center. Most mutual fund groups also offer toll-free 800 number for telephone assistance in completing

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THE MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS HAS CREATED A FAIR HOUSING OFFICE AND APPOINTED A FAIR HOUSING BOARD

The Monmouth County Fair Housing Board has been established by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to provide policy and guidance on compliance with State and Federal fair housing laws and regulations to protect the rights of all Monmouth County residents. The Fair Housing Office will provide the following services:

1. Coordination of a county-wide approach to ensure fair housing for residents.
2. Establishment of an intake and screening procedure for discrimination complaints. Services will include assistance and counseling on procedures for filing a complaint, help in completing the complaint form, and review and verification process.
3. Provide general information and assistance on housing problems, and when necessary refer clients to other agencies that are funded and staffed to handle a specific housing problem, including referral to the New Jersey Department of Civil Rights.
4. Education, training and technical assistance to individuals, groups, agencies and/or organizations.
5. Acquire and coordinate assistance of New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for verification of discrimination practices and negotiation settlement for fair housing problems.

The office will provide service and assistance to the general public, however, we have targeted the following groups as our highest priority: MINORITIES, HANDICAPPED, HOMELESS, SENIOR CITIZENS, FAIR HOUSING GROUPS, CONCERNED HOME/APARTMENT LEASE GROUPS, HOMEBUILDERS, REALTORS, LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES.

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St. Luke AME features Gospel Parade of Stars

By G.R. Mattox

An Easter tradition in the city of Newark will guarantee an afternoon of top quality entertainment brought together by one of the veterans of gospel music in this area.

Radio and television personality Herman Amis also promises some surprises when he brings his "Gospel Parade of Stars" to St. Luke AME Church on Easter Sunday, April 23 starting at 5 p.m. Heading the exciting lineup will be the legendary Swane Quintet of Augusta, Georgia. There will also be performances by the Softwinds of Peterson, Newark-based quintet since the late 1970s and Rev. Timothy Burgess and the Burgess Singers.

Unearthed native Cookie Price-Drayton and singers and nine-year-old Danielle Wilson will also be on the bill. Both new to the gospel scene have recently recorded albums that caused a lot of interest in the world of inspirational music. Rev. Burgess, who will host his own gospel concert on Palm Sunday, pastors Newark's White Rock Baptist Church. Friends for many years, Amis was instrumental in him getting his own show on WJNR and he has continued on station WWSW. "I am looking forward to this," Rev. Burgess said of the anniversary concert. "With Herman Amis you're guaranteed a good show and I would want to be a part of it, if I only went to pat my foot."

Verity Records releases Gospel Greats Volume III

NEW YORK—Verity Records, the country's preeminent source for recorded Gospel music, continues to expand its Gospel Greats music series with the release of Volume 3: Praise & Worship.

Volume 3 is a jam-packed compilation featuring 13 of the best known praise and worship favorites from the genre's most beloved names. This amazing collection reverberates the constant message of God's promise and greatness. Traditionally, "Praise & worship" songs are those that speak to the amazing power of God and His promises to participate in exalting His name.

Among the many classic gems on the album include "Glorious to Praise" by hit maker Fred Hammond. This rousing, live selection, is a signature song from Hammond and Radical for Christ, a band that draws the listener into the catch hook and it is a song where the glory truly never stops. Considered the architect of "urban praise and worship," Hammond recorded the song for the Inner Circle, his first album with R.C. The multi-talented Richard Smallwood lends "Total Praise" to this project. The song has quickly become a staple song for him and has become a standard in the church choir repertoire. "Total Praise" is an intense, memorable ballad that lends listeners to true worship of God. The song can be found on Smallwood's successful "Adoration: Live in Atlanta."

It has been said before, if anyone can testify that God is an awesome God, it is Helen Baylor. "Awesome God" is a majestic tune that is favorite among Contemporary Christian and Gospel music lovers and delivers the message of God's total rule in our lives. The song is from Baylor's most recent, "Helen Baylor...Live."

We welcome your requests for collective community prayer for our prayer corner
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In Tribute: Dwayne Cooper, gains his heavenly home



Dwayne Cooper

By G.R. Mattox

The smooth and low-key way in which Dwayne Cooper handled his entrepreneurial and artistic activities earned him the nickname "Bilk." He also mastered the art of personally reach-

ing out to people and touching the spirit of individual lives.

But Dr. Albert Lewis was one of those who saw his talents and potential early on. Known as the "Father of Gospel Music Month" in New Jersey and founder of the World Gospel Music Association, Dr. Lewis was just one of many to praise Dwayne's career as a business owner and gospel musician. He said that the young man came far in his short life and was a role model to his peers. "He lived right, and it showed."

Dwayne has traveled the length and breadth of this country and played with some of the gospel greats like the Mighty Clouds of Joy and Willie Neal Johnson. Dr. Lewis continued. Remembering the appearances that Dwayne along with his family group, led by his older brother Steve, made on his cable television program "Gospel Hour." The integral part of the group, but music was just a part of him.

A rising star in the gospel world, Dwayne was a performer and a producer, many said his death at the age of 25 is a great blow to the industry. Dwayne died on March 26, of an asthma

attack.

Local gospel groups including the Morgan Singers and the New Life Singers and several area ministers gave their tribute to Dwayne in word and song before a standing-room only crowd during his wake at the Christian Pentecostal Church in Irvington. The scene repeated itself the following day at his funeral procession, his entombment in Hollywood Mausoleum in Union.

As vice president of Newark-based Jet Records, Dwayne coproduced all projects for that label while playing percussion for the family group, now known as Peaceful Circle. He and his younger brother Jermaine also co-owned and operated Keep It Smooth, a beauty salon/barbershop located in Maplewood.

Born in Newark, Dwayne was a graduate of St. Ann's Elementary School and Essex Catholic High School. He also attended The New Jersey City University and completed his professional barber training at the Concord School of Hair Design in Bloomfield before joining his brother at Keep It Smooth, last year.

The latest CD release by

Peaceful Circle, formerly known as Little Stevie and the Superstars, is called "Changing Times." It has been described as "an anguished and heartfelt work" that has been well received by gospel music fans for its strong message. "It's not just music with a rhythm and rhyme, but it has a spirit in the rhythm," said Stefan Beck, one of the members of the group.

Beck said that Dwayne, whom he has known since his freshman year in college, was the one who introduced him to Christ. "He was a person that saw things in you that you couldn't see in yourself. He's not only the reason for my salvation, but he was my introduction to gospel music itself. He realized that I had a gift to share with the world, and he led me in that direction."

In addition to his parents, Dwayne Cooper is survived by a sister Debra and brothers Steven and Jermaine, his sister-in-law Sharon, three nephews, a godson and a devoted friend, Delia Reed.

CNBC receives grant to aid in redevelopment

WASHINGTON—Founded in 1978 and based in Washington, DC, the Congress of National-empowerment took the initiative in improving their communities. The competition for funding was very intense. HUD awarded \$21.6 million in funding to CNBC and 70 other non-profit organizations.

"CNBC was selected based on what they could bring to the table and the programs they have coordinated in the past," said Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper.

The grant was awarded under HUD's Community Development Technical Assistance Program's Super Notice of Fund Availability (SuperNOFA). SuperNOFA is part of the HUD Management Reform Plan to empower people to take the initiative in improving their communities. The competition for funding was very intense. HUD awarded \$21.6 million in funding to CNBC and 70 other non-profit organizations.

"CNBC was selected based on what they could bring to the table and the programs they have coordinated in the past," said Assistant Secretary Cardell Cooper.



Cardell Cooper, CNBC Executive Director, Sullivan Robinson, HUD Director, Center for Community and Interfaith Partnership, Father Joseph Hiscia.

Cooper. "The organization provided an excellent test case and has also been very successful in coordinating programs for people of low to middle income. CNBC's on-going partnership with Bank of America was one of the major factors that helped the organization receive the grant. The funds will be used as part of CNBC's Community

Development program. This program was developed out of CNBC's Church Rebuilding and Arson Initiative effort which was designed to help churches in South and promoted ecumenical and multi-racial inclusiveness. The grant will enable CNBC to provide technical assistance to member church affiliates.

"CNBC is excited about the

opportunity to expand our technical assistance capabilities and provide services to neighborhoods that desperately need the assistance of doing so," said Executive Director Sullivan Robinson. "We will focus on under-served communities that have been traditionally overlooked by development initiatives."

In memory of Columbine

By Richard Belle

He paid the price to be heard. Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee. And what he said to our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful. It needs to be heard by every parent, every teacher, every politician, every sociologist, every psychologist, and every so-called expert.

These courageous words spoken by Darrell Scott are powerful, penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness. The following is a portion of the transcript:

"Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died in this school, have been a great cry for answers. The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer, Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in

Cain's heart.

In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA because I don't believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death. Therefore, I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel's murder, I would be their strongest opponent. I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy - it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies. Much of the blame lies in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. "I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written before I knew I would be speaking here today."

Your laws ignore our deepest needs.

Your words are empty air. You've stripped away our heritage. You've outlawed simple prayer.

And precious children die. You seek for answers every where.

And ask the question "Why?"

You regulate restrictive laws through legislative creed. And yet you fail to understand that God is with us.

That God is with us.

Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we

The real villain lies within our own hearts.

Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers.

-Darrell Scott

refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows evil, pride, and hatred to rush in and seek havoc. Spiritual influences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation?

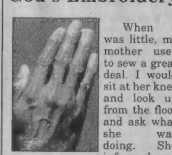
We have refused to honor God, and in doing so, we open the door to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs - we again immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA.

They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre.

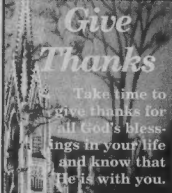
The real villain lies within our own hearts. Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers. The young people of our nation hold the key. There is a spiritual awakening taking place that will not be squelched. We do not need more religion. We do not need more gauzy television evangelists spewing our verbal religious garbage. We do not need more million dollar church buildings built while people with basic needs are being ignored. We do need a change of heart and a humble acknowledgment that this nation was founded on the

PRAYER CORNER

God's Embroidery



When I was little, my mother used to sew a great deal. I would sit at her knee and look up from the floor and ask what she was doing. She informed me that she was embroidering. As she was embroidering, I watched her work within the boundaries of the little round hoop that she held in her hand. I complained to her that it sure looked messy from where I sat. She would smile and say, "Son, you go about your playing for a while, and when I am finished with my embroidery, I will put you on my knee and let you see it from my side. I would wonder why she was using some dark threads along with bright ones and why they seemed so jumbled from my view. A few minutes would pass and then I would hear Mother's voice say, "Son, come and sit on my knee." This I did only to be surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful flower, or a landscape. I could not believe it, because from underneath it looked so messy. Then Mother would say to me, "My son, from underneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that there was a plan on the top. It was a design. I was only following it. Now look at from my side and you will see what I was doing." Many times through the years I have looked up to heaven and said, "Father, what are you doing?" He has answered, "I am embroidering your life." I say, "But it looks like a mess to me. It seems so jumbled. The threads seem so jumbled. The threads seem so dark. Why can't they all be bright?" The Father seems to tell me, "My child, you go about your business of doing My business, and one day I will bring you to Heaven and put you on My knee and you will see the plan from My side."



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Woman, Thou Art Loosed! sheds light on society's taboo

* NEW YORK, NY — Each year some six million women are victims of physical abuse at the hands of their partners. Results of a study just released by the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Alliance cites an estimated 13 million Americans, the majority women and a disturbingly heavy concentration of children, suffer debilitating post-traumatic stress from being physically or sexually abused. The disorder is the fifth most common psychiatric problem in the country.

"Every woman can be freed from shame, freed to release the beautiful, vibrant woman dying to get out. And the potential of this healing is as strong for men as it is for women."

— T.D. Jakes

"Every woman is someone's daughter, mother, sister, or grandmother, who is loved and cherished by God," said Bishop T.D. Jakes. "But unexposed, festering pains prevent many of them from realizing their potential. Jakes, is well-known for lancing taboo subjects with scripture. "Unresolved, unshakable memories form barriers of life-long pain and hopelessness. We want to crack the hard shells of enslaved, hurting women. Every woman can be freed from shame, freed to release the beautiful, vibrant woman dying to get out. And the potential of this healing is as strong for men as it is for women."

T.D. Jakes brings this bittersweet message to the Big Apple this month when

"Woman, Thou Art Loosed!" opens at the Apollo Theater in Harlem for a three-week run, which began April 18. Spiced with raw humor, and heart-rending songs, the play created my life."

Jakes is a leading voice on the color-blind hope available to men and women crippled by life's wounds. Bishop T.D. Jakes heads the 23,000 member Potter's House Church in Dallas, one of the fastest-growing congregations in the U.S.

Produced by Bishop Jakes' own production company, TouchDown Concepts, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed!" is a

play that centers on 12-year-old Michelle, who is raped by her mother's boyfriend and forced by her mother to keep the secret. The story follows Michelle's painful downward spiral as she moves into adulthood, but ends with the spiritual redemption available to anyone in unthinkable circumstances. The musical score for the play ranges from R&B and Gospel to Jazz.

The healing theme of the play is based on Bishop Jakes' book of the same name, which has sold more than two million copies. His first best-selling CD, also called "Woman, Thou

Art Loosed!," was a 1998 nominee for a Grammy and Dove awards. "Statistics cite one in three women some 60 million have been sexually abused," said Jakes. "That includes about 95 percent of the nation's teen prostitutes. This play is a searing reminder that we can interrupt the relentless cycle of abuse."

Tickets for the play are available by phone through Ticketmasters, (212) 307-7171. Group sales can be arranged by calling (800) 688-0857 or (888) 201-2535.

T.D. Jakes



T.D. Jakes

File photo

Bishop T.D. Jakes' first CD,

"Woman Thou Art Loosed"

based on his popular book, has been adapted into a traveling gospel play Coming to New York's Apollo Theater

April 18-30

Spence Chapin Services for Families and Children to hold informational meeting

NEW YORK — Spence-Chapin Services for Families and Children is sponsoring an informational meeting about African-American Infant Adoption on Wednesday, April 26 at the Montclair Public Library. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

Couples, single adults and extended family are invited to attend.

The presentation will feature an adoption specialist and an adoptive family. Questions from the audience are encouraged. Afterwards, prospective adoptive parents may schedule a private interview. Each family will receive a free take-home video.

Spence-Chapin, a nonprofit private agency emphasizes an individualized approach to adopting a baby as well as direct permanent placement without foster care. The agency conducts the most extensive African-American infant adoption program in the Northeast with offices in New Jersey and New York. Post-adoption workshops and seminars are additional services available to both parents and children.

Call 973-275-1212 for more information and reservation; The Library is located at 50 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair. Attendance is free.

Thinking about Adoption?

Informational meeting on
Wednesday, April 26, 2000, 6 p.m.
Montclair Public Library
50 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ



Direct adoption, no foster care. Sliding scale fees.
Most extensive African-American adoption program in the Northeast.

SPENCE-CHAPIN
For reservations, information and directions,
call Toni Williams at 973-275-1212 or 212-360-0232.
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CityLife

Spring into things!

PUTTING YOUR BEST FACE FORWARD

By Cheryl Ann Wadington

Soft, sheer color, rather than strong, punchy color, works well with this spring's fashions, says Robert Johnson, makeup artist for such celebrities as talk show host Star Jones and supermodel Naomi Campbell.



Sultry lips enhance the beauty of the shape of black women's lips for spring says Marcia Cole, CEO of insidesalon.com, a beauty advice website for women of color. Cole suggest using a neutral colored lip pencil to outline the mouth before adding gloss or lip polish



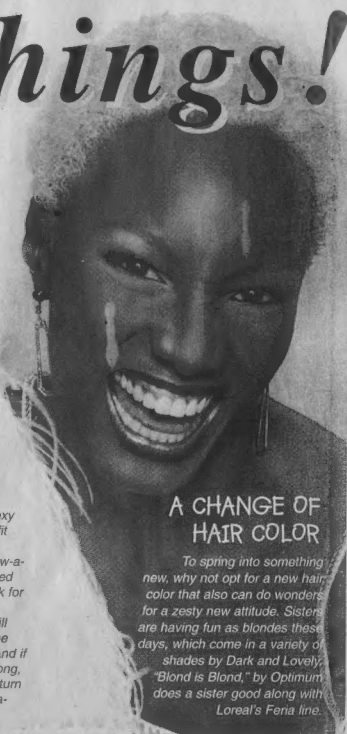
SEXY SANDALS

This does the legs good. This sandal, in blazing hot pink, can be found at Nine West for \$70. Sexy shoes for sexy feet in the spring means — ladies, don't forget to get that much needed pedicure. Women take note: Most men love pretty feet. This year's spring collection of sandals are strappy, strappy and more strappy!



SIZZLING SWIMWEAR

If you don't have one — a sexy one-piece or two-piece will fit the bill. Remember black is always slenderizing, and now-a-days two pieces with attached romper skirts will do the trick for hiding tummy flaws. Asymmetrical styled suits will draw the eye up and take the emphasis off your bottom. And if your body is holding — a thong, thong will be sure to turn the heads on a remote get-a-way.



A CHANGE OF HAIR COLOR

To spring into something new, why not opt for a new hair color that also can do wonders for a zesty new attitude. Sisters are having fun as blondes these days, which come in a variety of shades by Dark and Lovely. "Blond is Blond," by Optimum does a sister good along with Loreal's Fena line.

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Second Annual youth conference counters teen pregnancy

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

Can you imagine being 14 years old and pregnant? That has to be a bit scary. Or, and for that matter, a mother at 14 — quite frightening. This scenario might sound like something from generations gone by, when birth control and condoms were not prevalent during those times. However, this is the year 2000, and this scene for many teenage girls is a reality.

"Adolescents & Teen Mothers in the New Millennium" was the theme of the Second Annual Newark Youth Conference, which took place April 7, at the University of Medical and Dentistry Medical School in Newark, where the Secretary of State DeForest "Buster" Soaries addressed the approximate crowd of 80 teens.

Some of the topics covered at the event included "Killing Us Softly: Cigarettes, Alcohol & Drugs," "Peer to Peer — Let's Rap," "Abstinence, and Sexuality," "The Thrill is Gone and the Baby is Born." The latter being a session that brought to light the real life challenges that teenage parents have to deal with.

Dr. Cynthia Paige is the director of The Center for Family Partnerships along with Mary Rowson, who is the Community Program Specialist, are the branchchildren of what has developed into a support system and preventive safe haven for many teenagers.

This time we had a group of kids that seemed to be more in tune," said celebrity make-up artist Tamika Riley, who was a speaker at last year's conference and spoke this year at the "Abstinence and Sexuality" workshop. "These kids seemed to be more into becoming doctors and firefighters. They were more into their careers. They were gung-ho about being successful."

And this is the basis of the conference — to expose youth to upstanding people in their community, who exemplify the choices that are available for them to reach for.

"It is a lot of peer pressure from the other guys," said Darren, 15, who was a participant at the conference. "They'll be like 'man did you hit that,'" which translates into having had sex with a particular girl. "But these types of programs help you to realize it's not about the pressure, but about reaching your goals and being successful."

The words delivered by Secretary of State Soaries left the teens cheering, when he told them that they are smarter than past generations.

However, the most poignant segment of the conference was the play that the teen mothers acted out, said Riley, which she referred to as "having a baby and being a teenager is no joke." The young ladies expressed to the audience and, especially to their female peers, that the only choice they should make when it comes to sex is to "keep your legs closed." And that is right to the point. Their message was one of abstaining because as mothers they've come to realize that it's a very hard job filled with responsibility and the likelihood of the baby's father staying involved with mother and child is not always a reality.

Indeed, the conference is an outreach into the community, while serving as a paradigm for people living up to their responsibility — recognizing that the youth in this nation is its most valuable commodity. They are the future!

About The Center for Family Partnerships

The goal of the Center is to improve the health outcomes of young mothers and their children by increasing self-sufficiency and stability.

1. The Center has a 50 percent graduation rate and entrance into college.
2. 0 percent will have a subsequent pregnancy rate prior to completing high school.
3. 100 percent will be certified in CPR.
4. 100 percent developmental skills in creating a safe, nurturing environment for children.



This teenager demonstrates some of the things teenage mothers have to go through on a day-to-day basis.



New Jersey Secretary of State DeForest "Buster" Soaries



An audience member listens somberly to the speakers at the conference.



Students from various schools attended the conference.



Speakers, organizers, and supporters of the event pose for the camera. All photos by Billy Jones



A highlight of the conference was a performance by teenage mothers dramatizing what they deal with in their lives.

Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
NEWARK - The Newark Beth Israel Medical Center hosts a health-care support group at 4:30 p.m. For further information, (973) 926-6771.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
NEWARK - The Newark Beth Israel Medical Center hosts a health-care support group at 4:30 p.m. For further information, (973) 926-6771.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
BERKELEY HEIGHTS - The Union County Immigration Center sponsors a National Inmate Education Week. For further information, call (908) 771-5730 or (908) 771-5815.

MONDAY, APRIL 24
IRVINGTON - Irvington General Hospital hosts a seminar on "Osteoporosis: Maintaining Bone Density" at 10 a.m. For further information, call (973) 926-6771.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital sponsors a women's support group at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 418-8110.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25
NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a weight control orientation program at 7 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8600 ext. 6553.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
IRVINGTON - Irvington General Hospital hosts a body image and self-care seminar at 10 a.m. For further information, call (973) 926-6771.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
NEWARK - Irvington General Hospital sponsors a stress reduction and relaxation exercise class at 10 a.m. For further information, call (973) 926-6771.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
NEW BRUNSWICK - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a stroke club support group at 12:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 418-8110.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
NEW BRUNSWICK - The Cancer Institute of New Jersey presents a state-wide bowling benefit at 10 a.m. For further information, call (856) 542-6226.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
PINE BROOK - The March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2000 benefit will be held. For further information, call (973) 882-0700.

MONDAY, MAY 1
NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a gastroenterology support group at 7 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8600 ext. 5376.

THURSDAY, MAY 4
BELLE MEADE - The Carver Clinic hosts a heart disorder seminar at 12 noon. For further information, call (908) 209-1461.

FRIDAY, MAY 5
NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital sponsors a breast-feeding support group at 4 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8600, ext. 8820.

TUESDAY, MAY 9
PARLISIPPANY - The Alzheimer's Association of Northern New Jersey will host a golf raffle drawing at 7 p.m. Please call (973) 216-6676.

SATURDAY, MAY 13
NEW BRUNSWICK - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts its Arthritis Patient Family Conference, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (732) 418-8110.

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HeartBeat

Getting free health information just got easier

North American Precise Syndicate

Thanks to the U.S. Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services, lifesaving information is free.

With the support of increased funding from Congress, HHS is supporting the efforts of the Office of Minority Health Resource Center to expand its information services related to HIV/AIDS.

The center is a free, nationwide resource and referral service of the Federal Office of Minority Health OMH-RC has launched a quarterly newsletter on HIV/AIDS and racial and ethnic minorities and has initiated outreach efforts targeted to minority communities.

"HHS is committed to spreading the word that there is an HIV/AIDS crisis among racial and ethnic minorities," says U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D. "People may not realize that even though there has been a significant decline in AIDS deaths due to new treatment therapies, the trends in death rates are uneven across racial and ethnic groups."

Among OMH-RC's key goals are improving education about HIV/AIDS in bringing messages about the most effective strategies for HIV prevention and treatment to consumers and profession-

als. "Our Office of Minority Health Resource Center is one avenue we are using to both support and fund those who

'Our Office of Minority Health Resource Center is one avenue we are using to both support those who work in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in minority communities'

work in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in minority communities," Dr. Satcher says. "We all must work together to educate, motivate, and mobilize communities in the fight against AIDS."

Another feature of the new program will involve building on OMH-RC's Resource Persons Network, a group of minority health experts across the country who assist community-based organizations with such technical assistance as grant writing and speaking at

meetings. Among the facts of which the group informs its members:

Many people don't know they have HIV and can unknowingly pass it on to others. Roughly 650,000 to 900,000 Americans are living with HIV and an estimated one in three of those people don't know it.

Hispanics, who represent approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population, account for 20 percent of the total number of new AIDS cases. African Americans comprise roughly 18 percent of the U.S. population and account for 87 percent of total AIDS cases in the U.S. African American children represent almost two-thirds of reported pediatric AIDS cases.

Among women, African Americans and Hispanics account for 80 percent of AIDS cases.

Among men, Mexican Americans and Hispanics account for 61 percent of AIDS cases.

To sign up for the center's mailing list or to request free information on HIV/AIDS or other health topics, call OMH-RC at 1-800-444-6472 or see www.omhrc.gov.



U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher supports increased outreach to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS among minorities.

Eliminating the side effects of prostate cancer

Hackensack University Medical Center

HACKENSACK - Patients undergoing therapy for organ confined prostate cancer no longer have to suffer from side effects such as rectal bleeding and diarrhea, a study has found.

The study was presented recently by Dr. Glen Gejerman at the 82nd annual meeting of the American Radiation Society in London.

Dr. Gejerman, clinical director of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, heads a team of specialists that has been studying the effects of using a technique called intensity modulated radiation therapy, or IMRT, which subjects the prostate to more conformal radiation than standard radiation treatment. IMRT is often used in combination with brachytherapy, also known as seed implantation.

The study is an analysis of 65 prostate cancer patients treated with IMRT and seed implantation. Treatment plans for IMRT

and three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT) were compared and IMRT delivered a 2 percent higher dose to the prostate target while delivering a 9 percent lower dose to the bladder and a 12 percent lower dose to the rectum.

"The importance of this study is that IMRT is not just a theoretical tool anymore," Dr. Gejerman said. "IMRT and palladium implantation is in clinical use. Patients are already benefiting from it. Curative doses of radiation are being delivered to the prostate without the typical side effects."

Data shows when compared with 3D-CRT, IMRT in conjunction with palladium seed implantation, delivers better dosimetric coverage of the prostate gland with a significantly less dose to the bladder and rectum. "Since palladium radioactive seeds are placed directly into the prostate gland, the surrounding rectum and bladder receive very little radiation dose. The prostate is a walnut-shaped organ nestled between the bladder, rectum and

pubic bone.

What the study means is that prostate cancer patients can get a higher dose to the prostate and a lower dose to the bladder and

'That is the overwhelming concern for patients when they are faced with cancer. The first thing they worry about is whether they can be cured.'

'Once they are assured of that, the next step is how is it going to impact their lifestyles.'

rectum with fewer side effects, according to Dr. Gejerman.

With IMRT and seed implantation what we are doing

is giving the patient the confidence to know that he can receive aggressive cancer treatment and not have to worry that he won't be able to cope with the toxicity."

That is the overwhelming concern for patients when they are faced with cancer. The first thing they worry about is whether they can be cured. Once they are assured of that, the next step is how is it going to impact their lifestyles."

"They ask, 'Am I going to have to constantly run to the bathroom to urinate? Will I have diarrhea? Can I do my job? Am I going to be embarrassed?'"

These are the very real thoughts that go through patients' minds. With IMRT and palladium seed implantation therapy there is a confidence that you are not going to have problems with bowel functions. You are going to be able to function normally."

Prostate cancer, excluding skin cancer, is the most common diagnosed cancer in American men. According to the American

Cancer Society, in the year 2000 an estimated 180,400 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and approximately 31,900 men will die of this disease in the United States. African-Americans, have the world's highest rate of prostate cancer and are widely considered the greatest at risk group.

Dr. Gejerman said that while today's reported study was limited to the initial 65 patients treated, a total of 200 patients have been treated without showing any rectal side effects. "We have essentially eliminated diarrhea and rectal bleeding," he said.

"IMRT is a landmark advance in cancer therapy," said Dr. Stephen Strum, an oncologist/hematologist in Marina Del Ray, California. "IMRT will rapidly become the standard radiation therapy approach, not only for prostate cancer, but also for all tumor types."

Information about The Prostate Cancer Institute of New Jersey can be found on the Institute's website at www.prostatecancer.org or call 201-996-2034.

Health care: Behind both sides

Part one of two

By Yolanda Young

NNPA — I stayed with my grandmother, Honeymoon, every night while I was home for my grandfather's funeral. I slept soundly smothered in peace right where my grandfather had died. I slept so soundly that I didn't hear my uncle, Jackie, when he began wheezing at four in the morning. Fortunately for him, he was a mother who sleeps lightly bolted in her that nurturing sixth sense it was her footsteps so heavy with urgency that they shook her little house and her voice shouting, "Londa, wake up. There's something wrong with Jackie"; that woke me.

Soon the ambulance arrived. Unable to get enough oxygen to his lungs, they rushed him to the Louisiana State University Medical Center (LSUMC), the public hospital in a city full of poor people who had no health insurance.

According to the figures from the Census Bureau and a recent special report in the Washington Post, there are over 44 million of these people across the country

living and dying without health insurance.

At LSUMC, my grandmother and I sat — for hours and hours. No attendant came out to give us an update on Jackie's condition, so we assured ourselves that no news was good news. We continued to wait with only the TV and incoming flood of orange and blue-uniformed and shackled inmates (it was prison day) to distract us. Around 10 a.m., my uncle, Baby Jane, realized the guy manning the desk was from our neighborhood and went over and got a brief update. Uncle Jackie was going to live. One of his lungs collapsed, but they had inflated it and now he was on a breathing machine and being transferred to the Medical Intensive Care Unit.

We could see him for 15-minute intervals. There was free parking in the back that was usually filled between business hours and parking across the street for \$2 the first hour and \$3 thereafter. This wasn't a concern for most visitors and patients who were just parking in the hospital because they took the bus and came prepared to sit all day for

their fifteen-minute visits or medical attention.

When we arrived at 4:20 a.m., the place was empty, but by the first visit it was standing room only in the waiting room. The outside of the hospital looked like Atlanta's annual Freaky with all the police officers, teenagers and chain smokers milling around. Like many educated, gainfully employed adults, I'd never seen the inside of a public hospital. We, not unless you count having lunch in Howard University's Hospital cafeteria with some friends completing their medical residencies there. But in all time I spent there, I never noticed the people — patients, their concerned family members, or all the children crowding the hospital steps, sitting in adult laps in the waiting room and standing in hallways. As a kid, I remember going to little clinics to get those dreaded shots and to have my teeth filled with so much silver I could peek up radio frequencies. Whether the reason for going was frivolous, like me twice a week dermatology visits because Momma couldn't stand my adolescent, pimple breakouts or during emergencies like the time a basketball teammate scratched my retina, we never had to wait. But Honeymoon's words let me know that this was not always the case in our family.

This reminds me of old times, Londa. If one of the boys broke a bone or your mamma got the flu, I'd have to herd all the children up here and we'd sit and wait all day. It didn't matter if the sun was just coming up when we arrived. It was always dark before we got back home.

And for eleven million children in this country, that is still the case.

It was past twelve before they allow us to see Jackie and then only two can see him per visit. Around 12:15, the families waiting for their visits started sleeping around the locked door to MICU like they were trying to get the last lottery ticket only instead

of excitement and hope, these people looked tired, worried and desperate. The floor secretary was a few minutes late unlocking the door, so the anxious loved ones began beating on the paneled glass as though they were the ones who couldn't breathe and needed oxygen. Once the doors were opened,

we were invited into a calm. The women, tired, worried and desperate, spoke softly and gently. You never know how important a little thing like a gentle voice is until your nerves are in such a state that the weight of a feather could make you snap.

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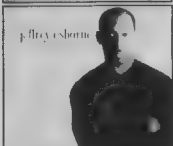
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Airtz Wednesday

April 19 — April 25, 2000

Music

Reviews



Jeffrey Osborne *That's For Sure* (Windham Hill)

For artists that were at the top of the music scene in the 1970s and 1980s, it has not been easy to score a successful comeback hit without the help of featured guest from the younger generation of musicians. Most notably Carlos Santana and Earth, Wind & Fire are a few of the artists who have recognized this.

But Jeffrey Osborne has created an album that breaks through that growing standard in the form of his latest album, *That's For Sure*.

He recaptures much of what made him who he is, that smooth voice that has that is known for the wavy vocal licks at the end of many of his verse. He also adds a sensual romanticism that is often missing in today's chart-topping songs.

Some of the standouts on this album include "Can't Find An Easy Way," a song about finding the strength to tell someone, "I don't love you anymore," and the LTD classic "Love Ballad." Other standouts on this album are "Second Time Around," "Soft and Slow," and "Come With Me."



Various Artists *Smooth Africa* (Heads Up)

This very appropriately titled is just that — smooth. This album is a nice collection of very smooth jazz from various artists based out of South Africa. Some, though, are the sounds of another South African native, Jonathan Butler, this album incorporates the influence of American-based jazz with the subtle sounds of Africa, creating a very soothing collaborations of piano-tinkled, brass-blown melodies.

The album starts off good with the title track by Dave Love, and continues with standouts like "When Days Are Dark and Friends Are Few," by Sipko Gumede, "Cape Vibe Get Easy" by Gito Baloi and Martin Walters.



Zao Mama *Rafiki* (Luaka Bop)

Zao Mama comes to the music scene with an interesting African vibe that lends itself more to a tribal sound than can be lumped into the hip-hop genre without the elements of cheesy commercialism. Their music, which stems of African chants to blowing cleverly into miniature vodka bottles, is a nice introduction to the group with Rafiki as its first single, and brings to mind the sounds of the French group Les Nubians.

The poetry section will return in the April 19 edition of City News.

Opera star's repertoire offers tribute to Robeson

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

He's an international opera star who sings classics like "John Henry" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot." He's 6-5, high educated, and is known for a body of work that speaks to the oppressed all around the world.

He's born Kevin Maynor, but once people see this Newark resident the name Paul Robeson comes to mind.

But just like Robeson, Maynor shies away from the comparison, offering a weak argument that Robeson was a "deep roaring bass," whereas he is a "light base," as he states on his last album, "Paul Robeson Remembered," a repertoire of Robeson's songs and performances.

"I think if there's a role model, someone to emulate, I think he's it," and Maynor "He was multi-talented, a magnificent athlete, and his orator skills were awesome, as well as a champion of justice. To me he was ridiculously talented."

The album is just a facet of Maynor's tribute to Robeson. The songs performed on the album are part of a stage production that includes audio clips of Robeson speaking, footage of Robeson, and other things that are part of a multi-media production called "The Repertoire of Paul Robeson," which he just performed in China last December.

Maynor has won much acclaim and praise for this piece not only because of its message, but the fact that he uses opera as a form of social commentary, something that is not often done in modern opera.

"It was a chance for the Chinese to understand what was going on in America, from a historical perspective to a contemporary light," Maynor said of his visit.

Also adding to the uniqueness of his body of work is the fact that Maynor takes these types of performances in many countries where people are oppressed, something that is not by coincidence.

"China was chosen because I felt it was an oppressed nation. I have chosen only oppressed nations to do these concerts," said Maynor.

He said he chose to focus his body of work in this sub-genre of opera because he felt the art did not address this issue.

"I developed them because I saw there was a vacuum concerning them. I was always concerned with oppressed people around the world. So there were specific areas I wanted to hit: Australia, South Africa, Brazil, China, India, and South America," Maynor said.

Maynor realized this concern at a very early age, as a young growing up in New York City



Kevin Maynor Photo by

with his parents, Robert Elliot and Irmone Maynor, and a sister. His parents encouraged his talent early in his life through music lessons and performances, and eventually graduated from the Manhattan School of Music. He later earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Bradley University and earned his Master's from Northwestern University and the Moscow Conservatory. He is currently working on his Ph.D.

But it was not until he turned 21 that he discovered an opportunity in opera during his senior year at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., when he performed a solo in Macbeth.

The audience was so impressed with him they when he returned to the theater in his years, people picked him up and carried him back to the stage for an encore.

He went on to earn a Fulbright award, study at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, and a George London award from the National Institute of Music Theater and a Richard Tucker career grant.

He made his New York City Opera debut in 1981. Philip Glass production of "Akhnaten" and

has also appeared in the Edmonton Opera, the Cincinnati Opera, the Santa Fe Opera, the Scottish Opera, and many more. He has also starred in many productions, including the role of the King in "Aida," Hunding in "Die Walkure" and Sarastro in "Die Zauberflöte."

During the time he performed in the role of Chinai in "Amstead," he gained another role as a father when his son, Kaelan Cincin

Maynor, was born to on November 19, 1997 to his wife Gail and him.

"I was great," Maynor said of his son's birth.

"I can't stand in the hotel room, almost ready to cry. I am worried that he will not have the influence of my persona, my grandfather's persona."

Maynor said, speaking about his concern of his busy schedules and the time he has with his son.

Maynor, who deeply admired his father's dedication to him and his younger sister, said he wanted to be the same type of father he was.

"I want him (Kaelan) to be able to speak of me the same way I speak of my father," Maynor said.

MUSIC NOTES

Jimi Hendrix subject of film project



Jimi Hendrix File photo

The life of rock legend Jimi Hendrix is being filmed in Toronto, Canada with the script based on stories from Ron Terry, who was a promoter during the 1960s. The film will include the events like his performances at Woodstock and Monterey. It will also include his rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner," in which he held a burning guitar over his head.

The movie will air on the American Showtime Network in September before entering the theatres. Actors Wood Harris and Billy Zane are said to be in the film. Harris will play Hendrix, and Zane will play Michael Jeffrey, who served as his business partner.

Ruff Ryders tour suffers after Boston incident

One of the most successful hip hop tours this year, the Ruff Ryders/Cash Money Millionaires, are feeling the heat of the fight that broke out backstage at the Fleet Center in Boston.

Concerts were canceled so far in Philadelphia, Arizona and Tampa, Florida.

According to the Boston Globe, a fight broke out at the concert held earlier this month, leaving six people injured and one injured critically. Five of the victims were reported stabbed and another struck in the head with a marble bench.



Sean "Puffy" Combs File photo

Puffy might be cleared of charges

Sean "Puffy" Combs might see the light of the dark tunnel since he was charged with gun and bribery charges. It was reported that rapper Shyne and his bodyguard might provide testimony that he did not touch the gun on the night in question.

The information was part of a 69 page motion that was filed to get rid of the charges. If the motion fails, Combs lawyers will probably motion for a separate trial. He is due back in court May 16.

TLC finds marriage, motherhood in plans

Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes and



T-Boz Photo by



Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes Photo by

Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins are looking forward to marriage to their respective beaus.

Lopes has been involved with model Sean Nelson and is currently working on her solo debut effort. In an interview with MTV, she mentioned she was interested in working with artists like Lenny Kravitz, Madonna, Lil' Kim, and Garth Brooks.



Mack 10 File photo

Watkins is engaged to Mack 10 and plan to wed in August. The two are also expecting their first child. Mack 10, best known for his affiliation with the Westside Connection, are getting ready to release their sophomore album in May.

Lucy Pearl gets ready for new album

The highly anticipated debut album from Lucy Pearl is scheduled for release on May 23 on Peckie Records. The group's first single, "Dance Tonight," is the first single off the soundtrack

for the upcoming Spike Lee flick, "Love and Basketball," which is also the first single off the group's album.

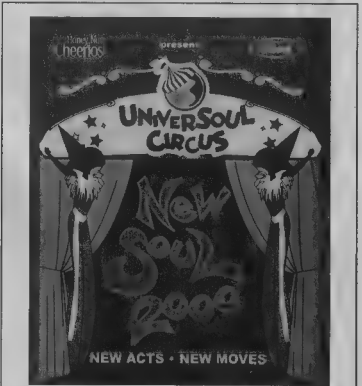
The group is comprised of Raphael Saadiq (formerly of Tony! Toni! Toné!), Dewa Robinson (formerly of En Vogue), and All Shaeheed Muhammad (formerly of A Tribe Called Quest).

Lucy Pearl was scheduled to perform on Soul Train at the beginning of this month, and will tour Europe and North America this May.

The soundtrack will be released April 18 on Will Smith's Overbrook Records/New Line Records label, and the film will be released April 21.



Lucy Pearl Courtesy of Shore Fire Media



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SATURDAY, APRIL 22

MONTCLAIR - The 12 Miles West Theatre Company presents the world premiere of "The Appointment" for information, call (973) 746-7181.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

NEW BRUNSWICK - Book discussion group: "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" by Carson McCullers, starting at 1:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 654-1028.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

NEW BRUNSWICK - Opera/Opera Senes performance is at Marjory Music Bldg. at 8 p.m. For further information, call (732) 932-8860.

WOODBURGE - The Barron Arts Center hosts a high school art exhibition, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For further information, call (732) 634-0413.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

NEW BRUNSWICK - Rutgers University presents their Symphony Band, at 8 p.m. For more information, call (732) 932-7511.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theatre hosts legendary songstress Dionne Warwick, at 8 p.m. Call (732) 246-7468 for more information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

NEW BRUNSWICK - Exhibit-BFA Thesis Exhibition II located at MOSA Galleries at the Civic Square Building. For further information, call (732) 932-7511.

THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 28

MONTCLAIR - Montclair State University hosts an exhibit of legendary jazz legends. For additional information, call (973) 655-7840.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

NEW BRUNSWICK - New Jersey Folk Festival, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information, call (732) 932-9174.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theatre presents "Victor/Victoria" at 8 p.m. For more information, call (732) 246-7468.

MONDAY, MAY 1

NEWARK - WBOC/8.3 FM presents Ernie Anderson and Get Lost, at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 624-8860, ext. 268.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

NEWARK - NJPAC hosts a children's jazz concert at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 627-0897.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

NEWARK - Sweet Honey in the Rock will perform at 8 p.m. For more information, call (888) GO-NJPAC.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

PARAMUS - Bergen Community College presents New Orleans Klezmer All-Stars, at 8 p.m. For further information, call (201) 447-7200.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

RAHWAY - The Union County Arts Center hosts Patti LaBelle at 8:00 p.m. For further information, call (973) 499-8226.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

WOODBURGE - The Barron Arts Center hosts a poetry event at 8 p.m. For more information, call (732) 634-0413.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEWARK - Alvin Ailey Dance Theater performs at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (888) GO-NJPAC.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

NEW YORK - The Jazz at Lincoln Center series presents "Jazz at Lincoln Center, Jump & Live" at 8 p.m. For more information, call (212) 721-6500.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

NEWARK - NJPAC presents "Jazz for Teens" at 12:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 297-0897.

NEWARK - WBOC/8.3 FM presents A Tribute to Matt Jackson, at NJPAC 7:00 p.m. For further information, call (973) 624-8860, ext. 268.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

NEW BRUNSWICK - The NJ Symphony Orchestra sponsors Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony, at 8 p.m. Call (973) 634-3713 for information.

Add your mark to the Newark Renaissance and submit your poetry to:

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Stars' image maker continues to work his magic

By Rob Williams

The Tyne's Morris Day was probably one to people calling his name as he walked down the street, but one fateful day six years ago got an extraordinary comment from a hairstylist in California.

Day was working on a film in the Golden State when a teenaged-hairstylist named Varian Langston stopped him in his track with a fashion emergency.

I saw him on the set of a movie he was doing across the street with these aluminum wave clips in his hair," said Langston, nicknamed Boogie.

It was these clips that inspired Langston to approach Day and tell him about this fashion faux pas, and seize the opportunity to give his business card to Day, who promptly returned a call to Langston to enlist his services.

"He called me the next day, and I came to his hotel to do his hair for the movie. I don't know if he liked the girls on his business card" or the hairstylist, but he called me up," Langston said.

But not only was Langston helping Day, but Day helped Langston kick off a new career

under the alias Dr. Boogie, image consultant to the stars.

"They call me Dr. Boogie because the type of work I do, go from A all the way to Z. I also have white coat and have scissors around my neck," said 'the doctor'.

Since Day, Dr. Boogie has consulted for such celebrities as Kimora Lee Simmons (reporter on "One World"), the hip-hop star created by her husband and industry mogul Russell Simmons), Foxy Brown, Bill Belamy, Isaac Hayes, Angie Martinez, J. Anthony Brown, LisaRaye, and Divorce Court's Judge Madlan Ephraim.

In addition, Dr. Boogie's work has also appeared on the pages of Elle, Allure, Vibe, Rap Pages, Today's Black Woman, Today's Black Man, Spin and Hustler Magazine.

Part of Dr. Boogie's appeal to the stars is his work ethic and speed.

"I have a lot of creativity and they (clients) are impressed with how fast I am. How I can do the what thing from head to toe. I am also very loyal and very private," Dr. Boogie said.

One of his highly publicized works of art is the First Lady

the Ruff Ryders. Eve, who he worked with when she was signed to Dr. Dre's label, Aftermath Entertainment. He was person who came up with the platinum blond hair and the paw marks that climb across her chest in many of her appearances.

This one of many success stories is a good example of the effect changing one's image can have.

"You may not realize it, but something as simple as a hairdo can change someone's life. Therefore, I put detailed attention and tremendous energy into my work. What I do to pull the entire look together, imaging from head to toe. That can include everything from set design, to lighting, to wardrobe. The end result is to give the individual and the viewer, something they can both feel," Dr. Boogie said.

Although his career started six years ago, he has always been the doctor when it came to style. Dr. Boogie grew up in Richmond, California, where he lived in the San Francisco Bay area. By 17 years of age, he was actively employed as a hairstylist with the business 2 Outrageous.

After his encounter with Day,



Some of Dr. Boogie's clients have included Eve and Kimora Lee Simmons

he also gained a reputation that landed him various photo shoots and cover albums, and is now expanding his services in the

form of a new make-up line, a instructional hair care video, and a Male Millennium Madness 2001 calendar.

Cosby will not renew for the new season



Bill Cosby

"Cosby" the hit television series' CBS, not renewed for another season.

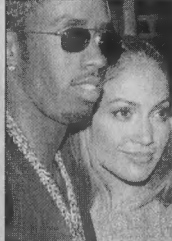
Bill Cosby, who has a multi-series deal with CBS, came to the network in 1990 three years after ending "The Bill Cosby Show" on NBC.

"Cosby" debuted in 1996 and was one of the top-rated shows on CBS, bringing more viewers to the network.

By 1999, the number of viewers dropped from 16 million to nine million, sealing its fate. The show also suffered with the absence of Maudie Hagan, who died of ovarian cancer earlier this year.

The show also co-starred Phylicia Rashad, Doug E. Doug, and T'Keyah Crystal Keymah. The final episode will air on Friday, April 28.

Jennifer Lopez talks with "Selena" director



Jennifer Lopez & Puffy Combs

Jennifer Lopez is now in talks with Gregory Nava, who directed "Selena" which starred Lopez in the title role, for a new movie called "Borderown."

Lopez would play the role of an investigative journalist who is covering a string of murders in factories located at the Mexican-American border. The project would be directed and written by Nava for El Norte Productions under a joint deal with New Line, according to Variety Magazine.

Lopez is currently filming "The Wedding Planner," co-starring Matthew McConaughey in San Francisco, and "Angel Eyes," in which she will play a cop who



betfriends a man dealing with the death of his wife and son.

In addition to that, Lopez also finished another film, "The Cell," directed by Tarsen and co-starring Vincent D'Onofrio and Vince Vaughn, scheduled to be released August 18.

Celebrity couple Will and

Will & Jada expecting their second child



Will Smith

Jada Pinkett Smith announced that they are expecting a second child this November.

The couple, were married on New Year's Eve in 1997, and had their first child, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, the following year.

Will Smith also has a son from his first marriage, Willard Smith III (known as Trey) from his first marriage to Shree Zampino. The two divorced in 1995.

The news comes at a time when both are busy with movie projects. Smith is working on "The Legend of Bagger Vance," which is being directed by Robert Redford and co-starring Matt Damon. Pinkett Smith is slated to appear in Spike Lee's next movie, "Bamboozled."

Berry surrenders to W. Hollywood police



Halle Berry

Actress Halle Berry surrendered to police after a warrant was issued for her arrest after allegedly leaving the scene of an accident.

About 11 a.m., April 1, Berry went to the West Hollywood branch of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department where she was booked on the misdemeanor charge.

Berry was released and told to appear in Beverly Hills Court May 4 for arraignment.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of one year and a \$10,000 fine.

According to various reports, Berry, 31, was driving in Hollywood in her rented Chevy Blazer in the early morning of February 23 when she allegedly ran a red light, slammed into another car and left the scene.

Her spokeswomen have said that she sped away because she needed to get to the hospital. The gash she suffered on her forehead required 22 stitches.

The other driver she hit, Hetal Raythatha, has sued Berry claiming she suffered a broken wrist, back and neck injuries, and said they had to use the jaws of life on the Pontiac Sunbird to get the woman out.

There has been no word on whether more charges will be added for the alleged hit-and-run charge.

Send your entertainment news to: CityVerse, Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102

Rapper-actor Ice Cube to star in another movie



Ice Cube

Rapper turned established actor Ice Cube has signed on to play in the film "Ghosts," which will be directed by John Carpenter, who directed "Escape From New York" and "Halloween."

The film will also star Courtney Love, leader singer of Hole and widow of Kurt Cobain.

The movie plot starts 175 years into the future, where a group of police officers are ordered to transfer a dangerous criminal, played by Deshaun Williams, back to the administrative Marlian city, Chryse. Among the ancient Marlian civilization is a spirit who is out to destroy all Earthly inhabitants on the planet. The movie is scheduled to be shot early next year.

Paramount Television grants 'Moesha' sales rights to African Heritage Network

HOLLYWOOD, CA - Paramount Domestic Television has awarded the exclusive rights to the long-running comedy Moesha to the African Heritage Network (AHN). It was announced earlier this month by Joel Berman and Frank Kel, co-presidents of the division. The award-winning series, which stars B&B/pop sensation Brandy and currently airs Mondays on UPN from 8-30 p.m. (ET/PT), will be launched in off-network syndication in fall 2000.

Under terms of agreement, AHN will represent the national advertising sales for "Moesha," with six minutes of national broadcast inventory per week.

"With such a high profile series as 'Moesha' it made sense to hire an ad sales company with expertise in this niche-specific market. We felt that the African Heritage Network was right for the assignment because of its highly-regarded specialty ad sales division, Alto-Mar Communications. Our own Paramount Advertiser Services will continue their terrific work on our unparalleled programming slate."

"We're delighted to work with Paramount on 'Moesha,' which has received accolades from television critics and exemplifies the high quality that major advertisers look for when making their up front buys. This series, coupled with our longstanding relationships with advertising agencies and marketers targeting African-American viewers, in a 'win-win' situation for all involved."



James Baldwin



Brandy

Since the series' premiere in January 1996, viewers have seen Moesha (Brandy) gracefully grow from a girl to a woman as she addresses controversial issues and navigates through comic adventures with the help and support of family and friends. The series boasts a stellar cast including Sheryl Lee Ralph, William Allen Young, Marcus T. Paulk, LaMont Bentley, Shar Jackson, and Ray J and Yvette Wilson.

"Moesha" is a production of Big Ticket Television, a Paramount/Viacom Company. Paramount Television Group is part of the entertainment operations of Viacom, Inc.

The African Heritage Network (AHN) is the largest and fastest growing African-American owned and operated marketing, sales and distribution company.

"James Baldwin: A Soul On Fire," is playing through April 30 at the New Federal Theatre on 292 Henry Street, New York City. Performances run Wednesday-Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. For more information, call (212) 353-1176.

The play is about a hypothetical meeting of James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, Harry Belafonte, and Lena Horne to a round table discussion on race relations with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

The play, written by Howard Simon and directed by Chuck Patterson, stars Forrest McClelland and Charles Reese.

Simon and Reese were beaten and arrested after her son tried to break up a fight in Montclair. Local organizations and the organized marches and protest demanding just for both.

Muhammad is the project director for Frontline Artists, as well as the editor of Nation Time newspaper and press officer for the New York-based Malcolm X Commemorative Committee. He will be making a rare appearance as poet at the event.

Poets against profiling to perform at 'House of Poetry'

NEWARK - The House of Poetry will present "Poetry Against Profiling," featuring activist poets Nije "Ghe" and "Bro. Zayid" Muhammad at the African Globe Studios, 1028 Broad Street, Newark beginning at 8 p.m.

Ashé and her son were beaten and arrested after her son tried to break up a fight in Montclair. Local organizations and the organized marches and protest demanding just for both.

Muhammad is the project director for Frontline Artists, as well as the editor of Nation Time newspaper and press officer for the New York-based Malcolm X Commemorative Committee. He will be making a rare appearance as poet at the event.

CityStyle

REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING CARJACKED

While there's always a chance of you being a victim of a carjacking, there are precautions you can take to reduce your odds. AAA recommends drivers plan ahead, stay alert and follow these guidelines when taking to the road:

- While most drivers wait until they need to fill their gas tank, it's unwise to take a chance of running out of gas in an unfamiliar neighborhood.

- Always keep your doors locked. "This simple precaution can keep you safe on city streets. Keep your windows rolled up if you're traveling in unfamiliar neighborhoods."

- When shopping, park your car in well-lit areas where there are other cars and shoppers coming and going. Never leave packages or valuables on the back seat. Lock them in your trunk.

- Be aware of the "bump and run" carjackings. The carjacker will bump your car and forcibly steal it when you stop and get out to inspect the damage. To reduce your chances of being a victim of a bump and run, drive in the center lane on city streets. If you are at all suspicious, don't stop. Instead try to get the others car's license number and report the incident to the police.

SPRING CAR CHECK HELPS PREVENT SUMMER BREAKDOWNS, SAYS AAA

"Cold weather can damage many components of a car or truck," said Mary Koonce, coordinator of the Club's Approved Auto Repair Program, "and the first exposure to summer can cause many of the winter-weary vehicles to break down."

To get a vehicle back in shape and to avoid mechanical problems during the busy summer driving season, AAA's Koonce recommends a thorough inspection, including checks of the following:

- Tires — Check for uneven or excessive tread wear. Make sure all tires, including the spare are inflated properly.

- Belts and hoses — With the engine off, look for worn or cracked belts and worn, cracked, blistered or soft hoses.

- Antifreeze/coolant — Check the coolant level and condition, making certain the proper 50/50 mixture of water and coolant is present.

- Motor oil — Check the oil level and condition. If driving under extreme conditions — very hot temperatures, towing a heavy trailer or stop and go traffic — check the owner's manual for specific oil recommendations.

- Air conditioning system — If needed, have the air conditioning serviced by a qualified technician using the refrigerant R-134a in new or modified air conditioners. Do not use non-approved substitute refrigerants.

- Battery — Hot weather can shorten the life of a car's battery. Weak or old batteries should be tested and replaced if necessary.

AVOIDING ROAD RAGE

(NNPA) — Here are a few things you can do to avoid becoming an aggressive-driving victim or offender.

- If someone provokes you, take a deep breath and resist the urge to retaliate.

- Don't tailgate.

- Avoid eye contact with an aggressive driver.

- Don't make obscene gestures or return those of others.

- Use your horn sparingly.

- Don't block a passing lane.

- Don't weave in and out of traffic.

Allow adequate rest for your trip. Realize that you can't control traffic-only your reaction to it.

If you think someone is driving dangerously and may be breaking the law, consider reporting that driver to the authorities. If you have a cellular phone and can do so safely, call the police.



1966 Ford Mustang

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

They have what it takes to make your head spin, do a double take, and capture one's attention like you can't believe. And no it's not a beautiful woman. But they're often spoken about with a feminine reference. I'm talking about the sleek, perfectly crafted shape and gleam that causes folks to go goo-goo-ga-ga when seeing one — a mint condition classic car.

And according to Rick Stoerber, owner and operator of the "Classic Car Garage" located at 120 Monmouth St. in Red Bank, which specializes in classic car restoration and repairs they're the hottest thing going about now.

"The old car hobby is so popular now," said Stoerber, who has been in the business of restoring cars for about 25 years. "All mopars or high performance cars are very hot right now." That would include Challengers, Barracudas and of course the ever popular Corvette, with Stoerber referring to them as "muscle cars." There was a time when nobody wanted a '55 or '57 Chevy," said Stoerber. He disclosed that a '55 Chevy convertible recently sold at the Scottsdale Auction in Arizona for \$82,000. We're talking a lot of dollars here. And for the classic car purist pumping money into these machines is part of the game and the end result is a traffic work of art.

As for myself, I'm a novice with hopes of working my way up to classic car purist, one day. But that's years down the road.

However, I recently purchased a '65 Mustang and let me tell you, I have never gotten so much attention in all days of my life. It's great for the ego.

I had the pleasure of meeting Stoerber, because upon purchasing my car, I had it towed to his

knew is that I've always wanted a '65 Mustang, and by a stroke of luck or as I believe it was Divine intervention — a lifelong dream became a reality.

My car, which I purchased for \$2,200 was in pretty good shape with the exception of a few can-

really a gem.

"At one time when Mustangs were really hot they went up to about \$20,000," said Stoerber, who assessed my car as needing a major tune-up to get it running, and the master brake cylinder was the most costly expense.

spend.

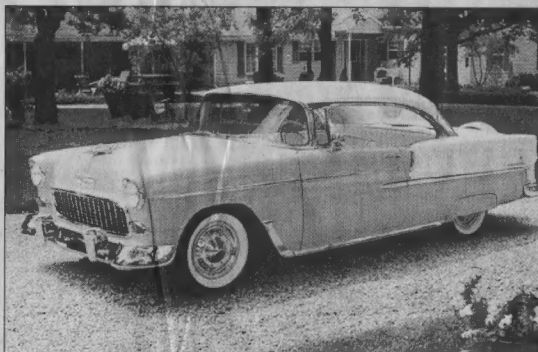
As a classic car enthusiast, I'm refurbishing my car to its original beauty. But for those people who are really into this expensive hobby, as Stoerber said, they usually have additional income — in other words they're not your average working Joe Blow, like me.

"It's all based on someone's budget," he said. "A total restoration can exceed the market value of the car." Totally restoring a car is like gutting out a building and then putting it all back together — new — ready to be driven out of a showroom.

So there you have it on classic cars. Oh, there's classic car insurance, which doesn't come with the costly price of regular insurance. To have my car totally insured for the year it was a whopping \$73, but keep in mind the insurance comes with restrictions. The car can't be driven over a certain number of miles within a year, and it must be kept in a garage.

If you're thinking about getting into the classic car thing, start off like I did. Find yourself a nice fixer-upper and a trustworthy mechanic and go from there. You can't believe all the offers I've had from people wanting to buy it. I tell them quickly "It's not for sale." Owning this car has been a labor of love.

If you have a "labor of love" story you'd like to share send it to City News Labor of Love 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, New Jersey, 07102. Talk to us soon! Classic Car Garage telephone number is: (732) 741-2450.



1955 Chevy

garage, where it received an overhaul.

"You've got yourself a nice little car here," Stoerber said. And his words were like music to my ears because I really didn't know the cost factor in owning a classic automobile. The only thing I

inter rust spots. The interior was intact. The car, which only had one owner, had been maintained very well, which I discovered when the former owner turned over all the maintenance records of all the work that had ever been done on the car. It is

Outside of that work, the rest were minor little things. Thus far with repairs and after getting the body work done and a paint job, I've shelled out approximately \$2,500 which still is not that much considering how much the classic car purist is inclined to

AAA says used cars can be a good investment

The old adage that buying a used car is only buying someone else's problem isn't so true anymore. According to Pam Fischer, assistant vice president of financial services for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park, during the past ten years improvements in vehicle construction have resulted in cars that run longer, with fewer problems, making them a good investment.

"The automobile industry has made great strides in producing cars that simply last longer," Fischer explains. "It's no longer uncommon to see cars in great shape with an odometer reading of 100,000 miles or more. Whether you're searching for an older, inexpensive first car for your teenager or a newer model with low mileage for yourself there are many reliable choices available."

AAA's Fischer offers these tips to ensure your used car doesn't turn out to be a lemon. Evaluate your needs and do your homework. "Once you've determined what you can afford, next consider what you need in a car and what you can do without," Fischer said. "Look through the classifieds and compare the prices of the

make, model and year of the cars on your wish list. Consult the Kelley Blue Book, available at most libraries or online, which provides price ranges for vehicles based on their make, model and year of manufacture."

Begin your search at a new car dealership that offers low-mileage, one-owner, often-leased cars. These typically come with a guarantee and have been well maintained.

If you opt to buy from a private party, make sure the vehicle has been well maintained (ask to see service records if possible) and have it checked by a reputable mechanic. For a small investment of about \$100, you can have a mobile diagnostic check performed on the vehicle and receive an assessment of all its major components.

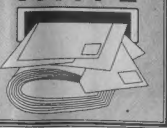
Remember, there is no guarantee with a privately owned car so the rule is buyer beware. Take out an on-usual noises in the engine and whether gauges and warning lights operate correctly. Uneven wear on the tires may indicate front-end trouble. A burnt odor in the transmission fluid can signal excessive heat in the transmission.



1965 Corvette

Name your labor of love and mail it to City News Labor of Love 111 Mulberry Street, Suite 1F, Newark, New Jersey, 07102, and we'll get it in the newspaper for you. We hope you have some photos to go along with your good deed and if you do — send them too.

MAIL





Pontier This...

By Greg Moore

REBIRTH OF A SALESMAN

By Gregory Moore

If he decides to go to college at the conclusion of next season, it looks as if it's a good bet that Camden superstar Dujuan Wagner will end up at Memphis State University.

Wagner, considered the top junior in the country, has long-maintained that he plans to go to school wherever Arthur Barclay (his best friend and Camden teammate) went. If we are to take Wagner at his word, it appears that Memphis may be the big winner as Wagner is already regarded as one of the top high school point guards ever.

And if everything goes according to the plan, then new Memphis coach John Calipari has one again proven to be the consummate Machiavellian salesman.

Soon after landing the Memphis job, Calipari aggressively pursued Barclay with an acute appreciation of the fact that what school landed Barclay would become the defacto leader in the recruitment of Wagner.

Since Barclay's commitment to the Tigers a couple of weeks ago, it has been reported that Calipari is attempting to solidify his position with Wagner by pulling a Larry Brown and offering Dujuan's dad, Milt Wagner, a job as an assistant at Memphis.

In view of these aggressive moves, is there any doubt why Calipari quickly emerged as one of college basketball's top college coaches during his tenure at the University of Massachusetts?

Is there any wonder why he was offered \$5 million bucks to coach the Nets? Calipari may have a grating personality, but I have every confidence that he could sell pils and chutneys at a mosque. Very simply, he does what needs to be done to make things happen. And make no mistake about it, recruiting is all about going a little farther than the next guy to make things happen.

John Calipari, the ultimate salesman, seems to be making things happen once again.

KEYSHAWN JOHNSON PACKS HIS BAGS, AND HEADS TO FLORIDA

On a football note, as you have no doubt heard, the New York Jets traded its franchise player Keyshawn Johnson in exchange for another opportunity to screw up the draft.

With this bone-headed move, the Jets have taken an aggressive and affirmative step towards becoming the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs don't win, can't win and don't evidence any desire to win so long as gate receipts at Wrigley remain strong.

Likewise, by trading Johnson, the Jets have sent fans a fairly clear and disturbing message about its commitment to winning, or lack thereof. Mark my words, Keyshawn Johnson will win a Super Bowl before his playing days are through, he's that kind of player.

Unfortunately, the Jets by trading their best player since Joe Namath have assured themselves that Johnson's inevitable championship moment won't take place in New York but rather in Tampa Bay.

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City Sports

Stars in their own right, despite America's oversight, Negro League players excelled

By Gilda Roger
Staff Writer

The Negro National League was no stranger to New Jersey. Back in the '30s and '40s on Tuesday and Friday nights the Belmar Braves would often face the Homestead Grays. Called the black Babe Ruth, Josh Gibson cracked a powerful bat.

Monte Irvin, who played in the Negro National League with the Newark Eagles and eventually moved up to the majors with the New York Giants was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973. He has called Gibson, "without a doubt the greatest hitter."

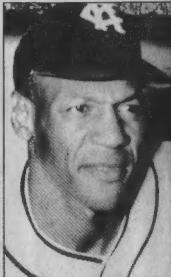
However, players like Ray Dandridge, who is touted as being the best third baseman was not called up to the majors, which too was the fate of Josh Gibson.

Dandridge who played with the Newark Eagles is said to have been "heaven sent" in the book "The Negro Leagues," by H. Clinton.

"A squat, bowlegged man who may have been the equal of any third baseman who ever lived," Dandridge covered the position like a spreading pool of oil, sliding left or right with no apparent effort to dig out hot grounders, then slinging the ball to first without taking as much as a half-step. Dandridge also was tough at the plate hitting .354 in 1936 and .404 in 1937, and 335 over eight Negro league seasons.

But it was players like Dandridge and Gibson that fell from grace by what has been called a conspiracy by white Major League owners not to infiltrate their teams with black players.

Despite the blatant racist attitude toward the stable of black talent, there were players such as Roy Campanella, who received the Most Valuable Player award in 1951, 1953, and 1955, along with Don New-



Buck O'Neil
Photo courtesy of National Baseball Library.
who received the National League Rookie of the Year award in 1949.

Abe and Effa Manley, who were the owners of the Newark Eagles locally scouted for that black talent. In 1939, the word was heard that there was a great hurler down on the Jersey Shore in Lakewood, named Purnell Mincy. One day while standing on his front porch a car stopped and Eagles owner Abe asked the young man standing there if he knew someone named Purnell Mincy.

"I told him I knew him better than anybody," said Mincy, 84. "He took me to Newark and I stayed at the Market Street Hotel." Mincy went on to pitch for the New York Black Yankees, and the Philadelphia All-Stars.

At 6-foot-4, Mincy was sometimes mistaken for Hall of Famer Satchel Paige, who hurled a ball like someone from another world. Paige, who spent most of his baseball years in the Negro National League, had got the call to play for the Major Leagues in his waning



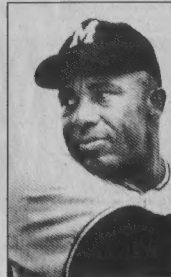
Monte Irvin
Photo courtesy of National Baseball Library.
years. He pitched for the St. Louis Browns turning in his finest work on the mound in the All Star Game in 1953.

In comparison to their white counterparts, the Negro National League players played for peanuts. The pay was usually \$100 to \$275 a month and meal money which was 50 cents to \$1 a day. These players played for the love of the game and money was never their driving force - sometimes playing three and four games a day - barnstorming across the country.

"I would have practically played for nothing," said Pee-Wee Jenkins, who played for the New York Cubans in 1946. "Because I loved baseball."

The Negro Leagues had been almost forgotten before the documentary by Ken Burns entitled "Baseball," shed a rightful spotlight on the highly talented league.

John Buck O'Neil, who played for the Kansas City Monarchs, has become the spokesman for the Negro National League. There is the



Ray Dandridge
Photo courtesy of National Baseball Library.
Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo., which has been instrumental in keeping the spirit of the leagues alive. A new facility was recently opened to preserve and educate those tourists and inquiring minds that want to know about the league that invented "shadow ball."

The Black Indianapolis Clowns, where "Hammering" Hank Aaron got his start created the warmup activity that became known as "shadow ball," in which they hurled, caught and batted an imaginary ball with speed, flash and grace.

Another facet of this amazing league is that a woman named Mamie "Peanut" Johnson played in the Negro National League. She was a pitcher with the Indianapolis Clowns and played alongside Aaron before he received the call from the majors.

This is a fascinating league, not to be rivaled by any other not, even the Majors and a precious piece of Black History.

SportsShorts



Garden State Amateur Baseball seeks players

The Garden State High School and College Men's Unlimited Sunday Double Header Wood Bat League now in its second season is registering full teams and individual players for its summer league, which starts May 25. All entered teams will get free entry into two or more randomly advertised New Jersey Wood Bat Tournaments. The league also includes a League all-star showcase game scheduled to be played in the St. Louis Cardinals "Single A" professional stadium Skylands Park. Over 300 Professional scouts will be notified, provided access to the team schedules and invited to attend the showcase game. For more information, please contact us by email at gsaib2000@aol.com or call John at (732) 750-5505.

Shore Conference Class B North Track and Field

Red Bank Regional High School's Jamel Harris led the Buccaneers to a 72-59 victory topping Matawan's Huskies. Harris took the 100 meters in 10.7 seconds, first place in the 200 (22.6) first in the long jump (21-10), first in the 110 hurdles (14.9). The Buc's Walton Kingsberry won the 3,200 meters in 10:23, and took first in the 1,500 in 4:40.

Newark's Brick City Buccaneers seeks players

The Brick City Buccaneers is a minor league professional football team based in Newark. The team is part of the Garden State Football League and will play teams from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The team's schedule begins June 17, 2000. The team held tryouts for prospective players on Sunday April 16 at the Paul Robeson Stadium. For more information on the team contact Coach Norman Mann (973) 596-1753.

ShoreCats pick local talent in 15th Annual USBL Draft

OCEAN — The USBL conducted its 15th Annual Draft on April 11. For its first draft pick, the ShoreCats chose Seton Hall guard Rimas Kaukenas. The 6-4 shooting guard averaged 13.2 points a game and hit 38.6 percent of his 3-pointers this past season. With their seventh pick the Cats added to the local flavor with Brian Lynch the 6-6 forward out of Villanova and a graduate of Christian Brother Academy in Lincoln. This season Lynch averaged 10.7 points a game for the Wildcats.

In the second round, forward Lamont Barnes of Temple was chosen; in the third it was guard Chris "Speedy" Claxton from Hofstra. UConn forward Kevin Freeman was picked in the fourth; in the fifth 6-1 guard Gene Nabors from Robert Morris; seventh Aubrey Reese from Murray State. The eighth round pick was Ladarious Jones a 6-7 forward out of Wyoming.

The ShoreCats held its rookie camp on April 8-9 at the Asbury Park Convention Hall in Asbury Park, N.J. Head Coach Greg



Grant, Director of Basketball Operations-Greg Kapalos and Assistant Coach Tom White conducted the camp. Through tapes and on-site drills, the star-studded players to come to the camp.

The organization in its third-season also held a Veterans Camp, which was by invitation only. This was for players who have had some type of professional experience were brought in and evaluated.

This year's USBL roster consists of 11 competing teams. Players such as, Muggsy Bogues, Chris Childs, Anthony Mason and Adrian Griffin played in the USBL before heading to the NBA.



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